



How the world treats its teachers

EDUCATION



## Diplomatic uproar after Straw allows extradition of Pinochet

BY KIM SENGUPTA AND COLIN BROWN

JACK STRAW decided yesterday that the former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet should face extradition to Spain on charges of human rights abuse, provoking intense political and diplomatic acrimony.

Within hours of the Home Secretary's refusal to stop extradition, Chile announced it was recalling its ambassador to London. Present and former Conservative politicians, led by Baroness Thatcher, condemned the Home Secretary, accusing him of making a political decision camouflaged by "legal posturing".

But Mr Straw, sitting beside the Prime Minister at yesterday's question time, delighted his backbenchers by resisting the tremendous pressure put on him to intervene in the extradition process. There was also generous praise from Amnesty International, which had earlier gone to the High Court to try to block the Home Secretary had he decided to send General Pinochet back to Chile.

There was speculation that the Government had made strenuous diplomatic efforts last week in Washington to avoid a rift with the Clinton administration after calls from the Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, for the general to be returned to Chile. Washington is apprehensive about details of the CIA's involvement in the coup that brought down Salvador Allende's government in Chile being publicised in open court.

General Pinochet's lawyers will, it is believed, challenge the extradition process every step of the way. Their first move could be today with an application to the High Court for leave to seek a judicial review



of the Home Secretary's decision.

Tomorrow, General Pinochet is due to appear at Belmarsh magistrates' court in south London for the preliminary hearing of the extradition application.

Lady Thatcher, who had tea

with the general before his arrest, was vehement in her criticism of Mr Straw, whom she accused of a failure of political leadership. She said: "He had ample power to put an end to this shameful and damaging episode. He has chosen instead to prolong it. Neither he nor the

Government can hide behind legal posturing. This was a political decision and it represents a failure of political leadership."

Sir Norman Fowler, shadow Home Secretary, said: "He has missed a golden opportunity to bring this sorry affair to an end.

He has caved in to the pressure of his backbenchers and cabinet colleagues like Mr Mandelson [who praised the arrest of General Pinochet].

"The British Government have mishandled this case from day one.

The Chilean government,

angry at the Home Secretary's decision, said it was withdrawing its ambassador as a "gesture" and so he could brief Santiago on Mr Straw's decision. The Spanish government stated it would fully back the legal process, which could see the general in a Spanish court.

Among the victims of the Pinochet regime in Chile and Spain there was widespread relief and joy, and praise for the British Government.

Within his own party Mr Straw's stock has dramatically risen. Jeremy Corbyn, the left-wing MP who had co-ordinated

the campaign against the general in the UK, praised the Home Secretary's role. Another campaigner, Ann Clwyd, said: "Labour MPs are absolutely delighted. I have just gone through the tea room and it was thumbs up all the way."

Richard Bunting, a spokesman for Amnesty International, said: "Today's decision marks the birth of a new era for human rights. His [the Home Secretary's] decision recognises the memory of those who were tortured, killed or disappeared during the Pinochet regime."

Mr Straw's announcement tightens the legal noose around the 83-year-old general. As well as Spain there are extradition requests for him from France and Switzerland.

There was, however, a degree of comfort for the former dictator in the Home Secretary's decision that the Spanish charges of genocide and murder did not satisfy the definition of an extraditable crime under Section 2 of the Extradition Act 1989. His formal permission for the extradition process to begin, the Authority to Proceed, concentrated on crimes of attempted murder, conspiracy to murder, torture, conspiracy to torture, hostage taking and conspiracy to take hostages.

## 'A victory not for us, but for mankind'



Danielle Mitterrand: 'The truth must come out'

THE HOME Secretary's decision sent a wave of joy and optimism coursing through victims' supporters and families who have campaigned for years to bring the former Chilean dictator to justice.

The conservative government in Madrid, which secretly hoped the general would be sent back to Chile, expressed complete respect for Jack Straw's ruling. A spokesman said it was now up to British and Spanish courts to decide whether the 83-year-old general would be extradited to Spain.

"I'm so happy," said Marcela Pradena, a Chilean lawyer who

BY ELIZABETH NASR AND JAMES REYNOLDS in Santiago

has worked in Spain since she fled imprisonment and torture under General Pinochet more than 20 years ago. "Now things are much easier. I'm optimistic."

Pat Bennets, who lives in Spain and whose brother, the British priest Michael Woodward, was tortured and killed during the dictatorship, said yesterday: "It's wonderful news, fabulous."

Viviana Diaz's father was a Communist leader who disap-

peared after being arrested by General Pinochet's security forces. Now vice-president of the campaigning group, Families of the Disappeared, she said Mr Straw's decision was an historic one. "It is not only important for us and our loved ones, but for all of mankind," she said.

But at the Pinochet Foundation, sorrow and anger followed the decision. The foundation is a private organisation of Pinochet supporters, including retired officers. Its president, Hernan Briones, vowed that Mr Straw's decision would be appealed. "This is not the end of our battle," he said.

Chile's government did not immediately react. Officials said the first word would come from the President. Eduardo Frei, who is on a visit to Brazil, The White House was also unusually slow to voice a reaction.

French lawyers seeking to bring General Pinochet to court welcomed the British decision. Lawyer William Bourdon said France's request for the general's extradition should follow its course. "If London rejects Spain's extradition request, it will have to look into the French request," he said.

Danielle Mitterrand, the widow of President Francois

Mitterrand, who heads the France Libertés human rights group, said: "Justice must follow its course so that the truth comes out on the fate of the victims and the responsibility of the torturers."

The Valencian lawyer Joan Garces, who worked with former president Salvador Allende as legal adviser before General Pinochet's 1973 coup, has been building Spain's case against the dictator since July 1996. "I'm happy that this is proceeding as any normal extradition request, although this is more serious and of greater significance," he said.

## Tip-off 'led kidnappers to execute hostages'

KIDNAPPERS WHO executed four Western hostages during a bungled rescue attempt in Chechnya may have been tipped off about the impending operation by members of the Chechen security forces.

Aslan Maskhadov, the Chechen President, confirmed yesterday that the four communications engineers were executed after his forces mounted a rescue operation based on information obtained

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE AND HELEN WOMACK in Moscow

from an imprisoned kidnapper. A macabre photograph of the men's severed heads was released by the authorities.

"The criminals brutally executed the hostages while an operation for their release was under way," President Maskhadov said. "It was a barbaric act against foreigners, guests of

the republic, internationalists. [It] fills the souls of Chechens with hatred to the ones who committed this awful crime."

However, official sources in Grozny yesterday told *The Independent* that information about the operation may have been leaked to the kidnappers.

"It is very hard to mount an operation of this type in Chechnya," said the source, who had been briefed by Chechen authorities. "Some of the soldiers

may be related to the kidnappers. This means the kidnappers could have been informed."

It was also revealed that Granger Telecom, which employed three of the men, was negotiating a ransom for the hostages' release, against the express advice of the Foreign Office, before the rescue mission.

Details of the rescue attempt remained scant yesterday, with differing reports and rumours circulating. One theory sug-

gested the murders may have been the result of a struggle over telecommunications.

Some reports said the rescue attempt was launched on the night of 3 December, while others said it happened on 7 December, the night before the heads were found.

While the location of the operation is unknown, it is understood that five kidnappers and two security force members were killed in the action. The

severed heads of the engineers were found in east Chechnya near Assinovskaya, a village 10 miles from the border with Ingushetia. Sources said the kidnappers may have spent time over the border.

The Foreign Office minister Tony Lloyd told the Commons it seemed "likely [the men] were killed as a consequence of fighting between rival Chechen forces".

Ransom deal, page 7

### INSIDE THIS SECTION

Pension plan rejected  
The Government has abandoned the plan for compulsory pensions  
Home P6

Fighting pester power  
Advertisers have advice for parents at Christmas  
Home P9

Suharto questioned  
The former Indonesian president had to answer corruption allegations  
Foreign P16

Iraq blocks UN  
Inspectors were barred from Baath Party HQ  
Foreign P18

Zeneca merger  
The merger with Astra will cost £3.8bn over 10 years and lose 6,000 jobs  
Business P20

Australia cricket crisis  
The Prime Minister has called for an inquiry  
Sport P26

### INSIDE THE REVIEW

David Aaronovitch  
Labour's thoughts and mine on a reformed House of Lords  
Comment P3

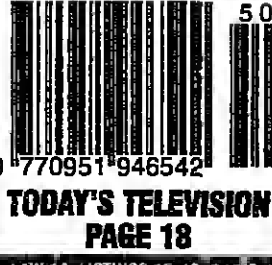
Sally Brampton  
Middle age has gone; young-old is here  
Comment P4

Rupert Cornwell  
Fifty years of the United Nations charter of human rights  
Comment P5

Dilemmas  
Virginia Ironside on a widow's loneliness  
Features P8

Lieder of the pack  
An interview with Ian Bostridge, Britain's matinee idol tenor  
Arts P9

Seasonal warnings  
Surviving your first Christmas at work  
Fast Track P13



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THE PINOCHET DECISION

# 'If Pinochet is not in Chile I will have to go to wherever he happens to be'



Isabel Hilton, a Latin American expert, looks at the judge seeking justice in Chile for the 3,000 'disappeared'

THE NEWS that General Augusto Pinochet is to face extradition proceedings was received with comparative calm by his supporters in Santiago. The proceedings risk being lengthy and the general's lawyers will continue to fight in the hope that the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, might still exercise the option of expelling him to Chile.

It is not just the Pinochet supporters who will continue to campaign for the general's return. The Chilean government, despite its political differences with the former dictator, has argued, belatedly, that he can and should face trial in his own country. Yesterday, it signalled its disappointment by withdrawing the Chilean ambassador from London.

But the decision was also likely to be a disappointment to Judge Jaime Guzman, the man who, since the beginning of this year, has been pursuing his own judicial action against the general in Chile.

Ten days ago, Judge Guzman was supervising the excavation of a cemetery in Copiapo, in Chile's northern desert, looking for the remains of three men executed illegally by the Chilean army in October 1973. "To prosecute someone for homicide in Chile," he explained, "you have to find the body, even if someone has confessed." In this case, confession is unlikely.

Judge Guzman is one of Chile's senior judges and sits on its court of appeal. As he explained, in his temporary office in the Copiapo police station, his assignment to a case such as this is an admission that a more junior figure might be intimidated by the importance of the person under investigation.

There is much to be intimidated by. Until earlier this year, such a prosecution would have been unthinkable. Under the many provisions in Chile's constitutional arrangements that General Pinochet crafted to cover his departure from power was his grip of the armed forces, relinquished only in March. Once he had stepped down from that role, he assumed a lifetime seat in the Senate, a perpetual affront to his democratic opposition.

General Pinochet's continued power protected him, but until the intervention of Judge Guzman the threat was, in any case, minimal.

Under General Pinochet's dictatorship, Chile's judges had played an undistinguished role. Many came from the wealthy families that had cheered as the tanks began to roll in September 1973. They were deaf to the entreaties of the growing numbers of distressed relatives who tried to present writs for habeas corpus for loved ones who had vanished in the night. Those judges who might have been inclined to be bold quickly realised the risks involved.

Even after 1989, when General Pinochet was no longer president, the judges hardly rushed to glory. They concluded



Ambassador Maria Artaza leaving London yesterday

## 'A decision to restore our faith in politicians'



Harold Pinter, playwright and human rights activist, on why Straw's decision has global significance

JACK STRAW has made a brave and impressive decision. Frankly, I was rather surprised, amazed even, when I learned that he had done the right thing and let justice take its course for Augusto Pinochet.

There were many pressures on him not to do so. So many of these decisions are overtaken by a cynical realpolitik and leave justice behind. In refusing to betray justice, Jack Straw has restored some of my faith in politicians, just as the earlier decision by the law lords restored my faith in the judiciary.

The significance of this decision cannot be overestimated. Suddenly a brutal dictator has been brought to justice. Suddenly we have the prospect of the whole tawdry story of one of the West's pet despots being told to the world.

Pinochet was just one of many brutes who we in the

West, America in particular, propped up, supported and paid for over the years. Let us be clear that these men were nothing to do with red China or the Soviet Union - they were our client rulers from Haiti to Paraguay and from Argentina to Indonesia. They were entirely dependent on us in the so-called "free world" and acted as our willing instruments.

Now Pinochet, in a sense on behalf of all those monsters, has been called to account. It is the most important event in international justice since the Nuremberg trials of the Nazi war criminals. Those trials took place in the long shadows of torture and genocide, just as Pinochet's will.

Many barbaric things that took place in Pinochet's 17-year rule will be retold during the trial. Hideous atrocities took place. The evidence will remind us that his victims of torture and arbitrary execution were real people, and many of them were extremely young. We will learn more about the

known where duty to justice ended and prudence began.

But in January, to the astonishment and delight of human rights lawyers, Judge Guzman agreed to pursue a case brought by the general secretary of the Communist Party, Gladys Marin, over the disappearance of her husband, Oofire Munoz, in 1973. It was the first time a Chilean judge had taken such a case.

Others rushed forward and now Judge Guzman has a portfolio of 11 cases on which to pursue charges against General Pinochet of complicity in multiple homicide, kidnapping, illicit association, illegal burial and illegal expropriation of property.

These cases led him to the graveyard in Copiapo. Most of them concern the torture and murder of prisoners in what is known as "the convoy of death". Between 5 October and 19 October 1973, on the orders of

General Pinochet, an army general, Arrellano Starck, was sent on a tour of northern Chile to ensure that local army commanders were prosecuting their mission to exterminate potential opposition with sufficient zeal. Wherever Starck's helicopter convoy touched down, prisoners were taken out of jail, tortured and murdered.

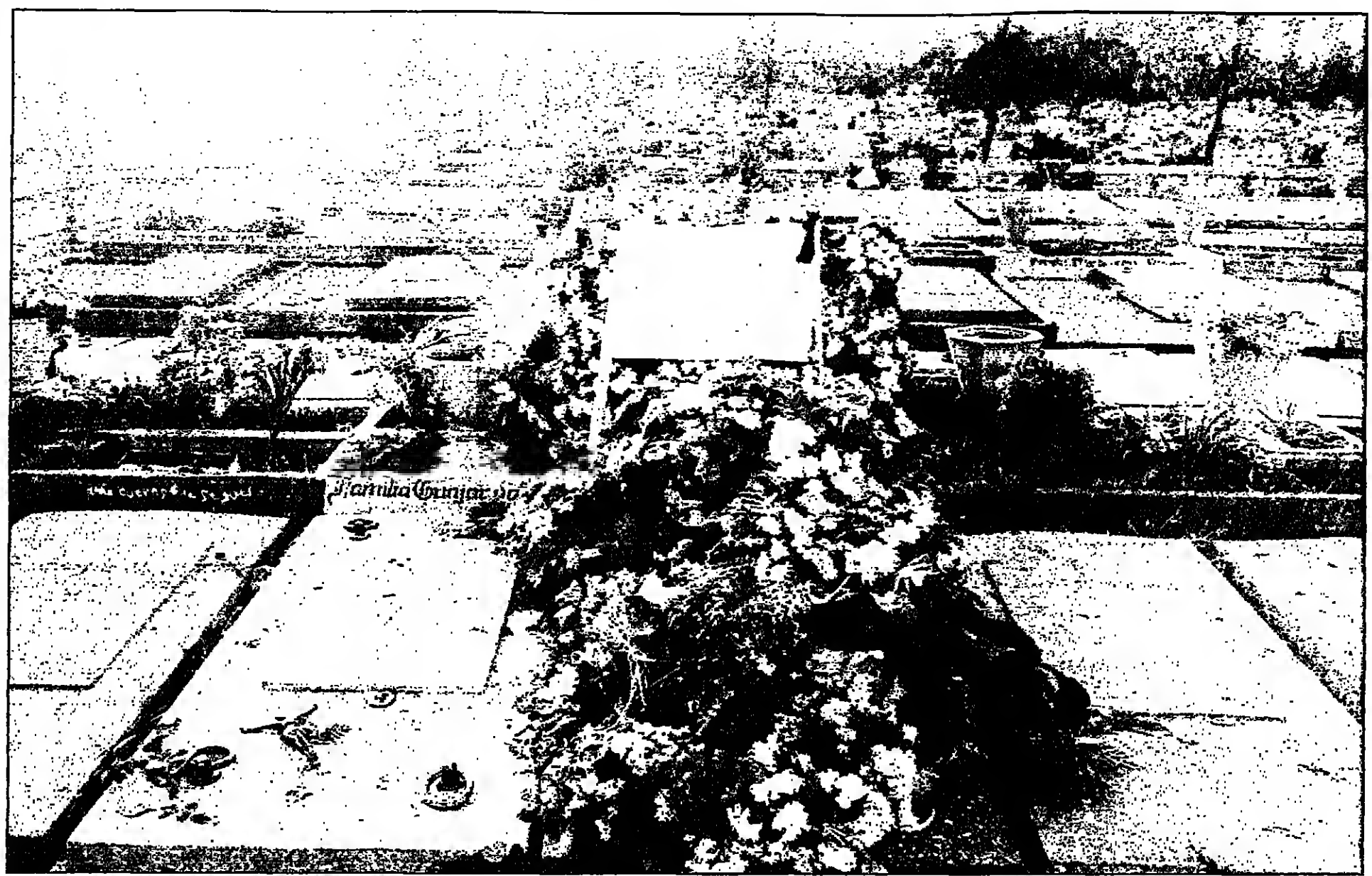
When Starck's authority was challenged, he showed his written orders - signed by the commander in chief of the army, Augusto Pinochet.

By the time Starck's helicopter returned to Santiago, 72 men were dead. One of them was Ricardo Garcia, manager of a copper mine. In 1973, when the army occupied the mine after the coup, there was no resistance, but Mr Garcia was arrested nonetheless.

Days later his wife, Rolly Baltiansky, was told to go to Copiapo cemetery to identify his body. She was never allowed to see it. The coffins of her husband and two trade union leaders presumed to have died with him disappeared while she was told by army officers to go and buy flowers.

The workers at the cemetery were also told to leave. When they returned, they noticed a freshly dug patch of earth. They said nothing about it for nearly 25 years. Now, on the basis of their nervous recollection, the search for the evidence of those murders has begun. Since they began to testify, each has received anonymous threats.

It is easy to understand why Ms Baltiansky wants to find her husband's remains. Most of all, she says, she just wants to give him a proper grave.



Flowers covering the grave in Chile's capital, Santiago, of a victim of police violence under General Pinochet's regime

David Burnett

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# Bonn ignores Anglo-German tax agreement

A DRIVE by Tony Blair to defuse the controversy over calls for a common European tax policy suffered an immediate setback yesterday.

BY ANDREW GRICE AND  
STEPHEN CASTLE

Downing Street issued a joint statement by Mr Blair and Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, saying they opposed the harmonisation of income and company taxes throughout the European Union. But Mr Blair's hopes of a coup ahead of this weekend's summit of EU leaders in Vienna were scuppered when the German government said the declaration would not be published in Bonn.

But Brussels officials suggested the problem reflected differences between Mr Schröder and Oskar Lafontaine, his Finance Minister, who wants Britain to lose the competitive advantage of its low corporate tax rates. "This is symptomatic of the current disorganisation in Germany. It reflects worse on the Germans than the British," said one EU diplomat.

The Tories claimed it was significant the statement made no reference to taxes on savings, capital and VAT. In the Commons, William Hague mocked the agreement and dubbed Mr Blair "the Basil Fawlty of Europe". The Conservative leader told the Prime Minister: "Every time you meet a German you go round saying 'Don't mention the tax harmonisation'."

Initially, a German Chancellor spokeswoman said the two leaders had spoken by telephone and "reached an understanding on European tax policy", but added: "It was not agreed that a joint written statement would be issued."

After several hours of confusion, the Germans finally acknowledged the statement. Downing Street blamed the mix-up on the fact that a press briefing in Bonn took place yesterday afternoon, while journalists in London had been told in the morning.

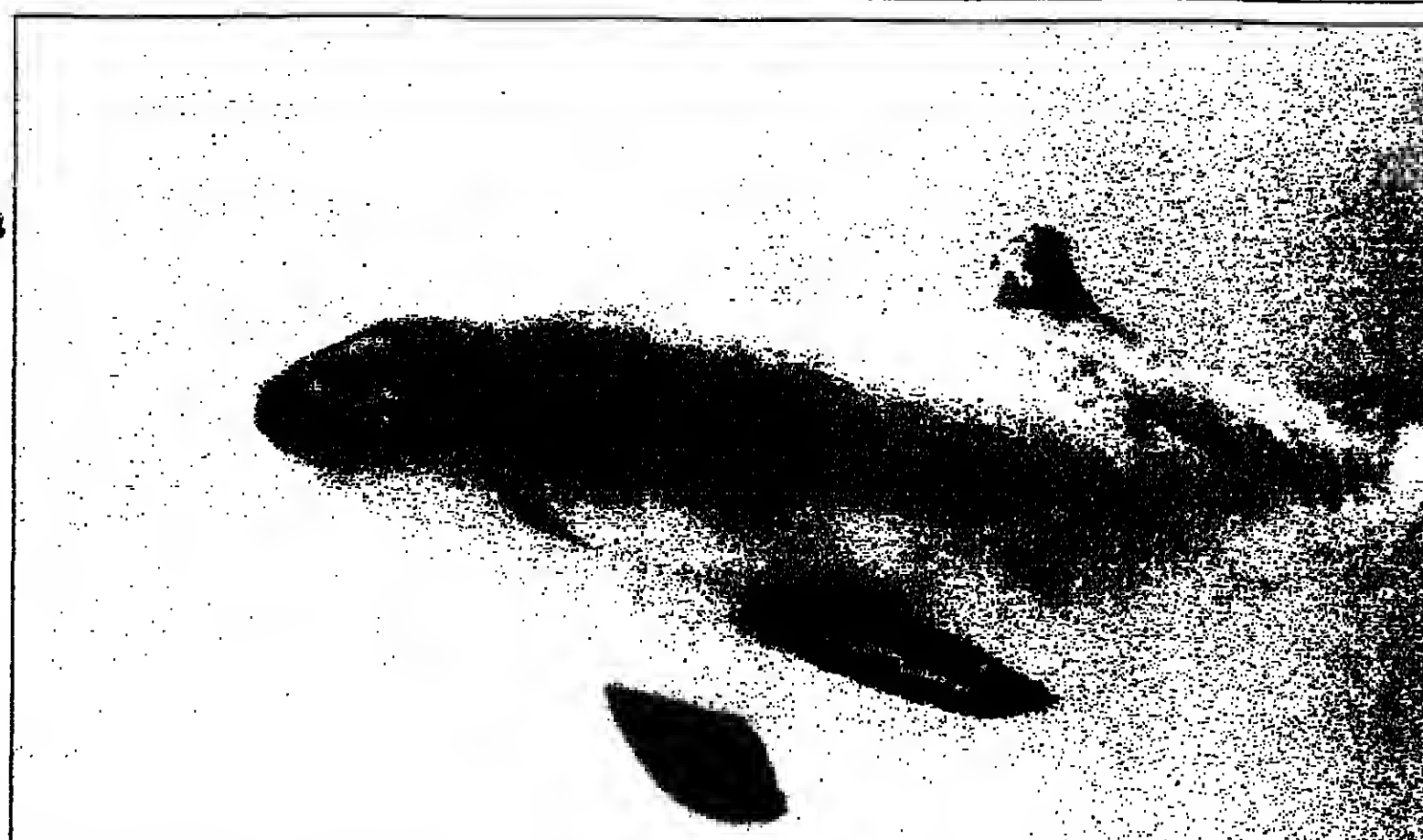
Britain's interest, whether on taxes or in any other field."

Mr Blair is likely to come under pressure at the Vienna summit to surrender part of the special rebate on Britain's contributions to the EU, which is worth £2bn a year. Downing Street insisted yesterday that it would survive - even if Mr Blair had to use his veto to protect it.

In yesterday's Anglo-German statement, the only concession to greater co-ordination of taxes was on environmental and health grounds. It said: "In approaching all of these issues, we will ensure that no proposal is accepted if it damages European competitiveness or destroys jobs."

Despite yesterday's confusion, British officials hope the Blair-Schröder statement will help to head off demands for greater integration on tax.

The Vienna summit has a crowded agenda dominated by the funding of the EU. There is likely to be a significant split between net contributor nations, including Germany, which want a freeze on EU spending, and nations such as Spain, which benefit from its structural and cohesion funds.



New technology may help in devising ways to protect the harbour porpoise (above), which has almost vanished from British seas H Benke

## Clickometer to help save porpoises

BRITISH MARINE biologists have invented a porpoise detector to track the movements of the UK's smallest marine mammals.

The ground-breaking underwater acoustic device, known as POD, sits on the seabed and picks up the clicks that porpoises and their dolphin cousins emit, as a form of sonar, to detect fish.

Scientists working with The

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY  
Environment Correspondent

Wildlife Trusts hope it will provide information about porpoises which is essential for the mammals' protection.

The harbour porpoise, *Phocoena phocoena*, is becoming a seriously threatened species around the coasts of Britain. Once a familiar sight, they have virtually vanished from the

English Channel and the southern North Sea.

Accidental catches in commercial fishing gear are responsible for many deaths, with the Celtic Shelf hake fishery off southern Ireland alone thought to be responsible for killing 2,000 porpoises a year.

Accurate information about porpoise concentrations has so far been unavailable as they are difficult to observe. But the

detector, the idea of Dr Nick Tregenza of the Cornwall Wildlife Trust, can pick up the activity of porpoises up to 500 metres away. It consists of a hydrophone attached to a small battery-powered computer inside a plastic block, which sits on the seabed for nearly four days at a time, at depths of up to 150m.

This week it was being used by the West Wales Wildlife

Trust, which has a good concentration of porpoises in Cardigan Bay.

"We've already discovered that they hunt mainly at night," said Mick Baines, a marine biologist working with the trust. "We need to understand the ecology of the porpoise so we can manage threats such as entanglements in fishing nets. If we can identify high-risk areas we can manage the fishery."

## Seaman murdered lover's daughter

A MERCHANT seaman was yesterday found guilty of the murder of his former girlfriend's five-year-old daughter.

Graham Sate, 25, of Grimsby, was also convicted of cruelty towards Lauren Creed by a jury at Norwich Crown Court.

Lauren's mother, Sharon Creed, 35, a Senior Aircraftman in the RAF, also from Grimsby, had admitted two charges of cruelty towards her daughter at an earlier hearing. Last night it emerged that Sate had been out of prison for only 10 months when he murdered Lauren at her home.

Minutes after finding him guilty of her murder the jury was told that he had previously been convicted of the attempted murder of a taxi driver in a vicious attack on a narrow inmate while in jail.

Yesterday Norfolk Social Services refused to discuss why Lauren had not been placed on its child protection register despite the presence in her household of such a violent personality, and a series of formal complaints by concerned neighbours. The local authority said it would be inappropriate to comment ahead of the sentencing of the pair tomorrow.

BY GARY FINN AND  
CATHY COMERFORD



Graham Sate pictured in 1988

Lauren was declared dead shortly after paramedics found her on the floor of her home at RAF Coltishall in October 1997, Norwich Crown Court heard during the five-day trial.

Pathologists said the child had died as a result of having her liver split and crushed against her spinal column. They said she had either been punched or kicked as she stood against a wall, or stamped on

as she lay on the floor. The court heard that Lauren, who stood 3ft 1in, had 167 fresh bruises and abrasions and a fractured rib when she died.

Sate had lived with Creed and Lauren for four months in married quarters and Lauren began calling him "Daddy".

In court, Sate, who denied murder and cruelty, blamed Lauren's death on Creed and said he had done nothing more than occasionally smack the youngster's bottom. But a tape recording of the dead child's voice contradicted this, and the startling piece of evidence may well have secured the conviction of her murderer.

On the tape, made by next-door neighbour Sofia Baker three months before Lauren died, the girl says: "Daddy punched me in the belly today, slapped me, punched me."

Mrs Baker had taken the matter into her own hands after her husband, Gregg, an RAF police corporal, pointed out swellings on Lauren's cheeks and jaw.

But Sate, whom they approached, said any bruises were caused by accidents. Norfolk county social services apparently believed the explanation.

## Russian spends three days in Channel Tunnel

THE SECURITY of the Channel Tunnel was cast into doubt yesterday after it emerged that a 36-year-old Russian had spent three days in the tunnel, walking almost the whole way from Britain to France.

The intruder, who evaded security fences and cameras and dodged 100mph trains, was finally intercepted on Tuesday morning as he approached the French entrance to the tunnel near Calais. It is believed he entered the Cheriton tunnel mouth, near Folkestone, some time on Saturday.

His motive and state of mind remained a mystery last night. He told police he intended to join the French Foreign Legion.

Eurotunnel said it was "very worried" by the incident. "We are still asking ourselves how this man could have got into the tunnel and how he could not have been spotted for so long," a company spokeswoman said.

French police also said it was a "miracle" that the man had survived his 30-mile hike. Eurostar trains passing through the tunnel at 150km an hour (92mph) cause winds and a vacuum effect that should, in

BY JOHN LICHFIELD  
in Paris

theory, suck up and kill any pedestrians near his path.

French and British police believe the man - who has been returned to Britain for questioning - may have walked through one of the two, main tunnel shafts during maintenance periods at night and hidden in the smaller, rescue tunnel and side passages at other times.

"At night parts of the tunnel are closed for maintenance and the trains that do run, mainly freight, move more slowly," a Eurotunnel official said.

French police said that the man did not seem crazy. He was not an adventurer or someone who had set out to walk from England to France for a dare. His motives remained a mystery.

Eurotunnel is urgently reviewing its security arrangements, especially its network of closed-circuit cameras. "If we had known that there was a pedestrian in the tunnel, we would have stopped the trains," the official said.

## Red card threat to rowdy students

BY MATTHEW COOPER


POLICE ARE to issue students with football-style red and yellow card warnings in an effort to control "youthful exuberance" among undergraduates.

West Midlands Police said the initiative - supported by Birmingham University's Guild of Students - is aimed at curbing late night "singing and shouting" in the Selly Oak area of the city.


A police spokesman said young people causing problems would be warned and receive letters requesting they be more considerate towards residents. Students will also be warned that further misdemeanours could lead to a "red card" letter to university authorities.

"The university then has a range of options," he said. "However, the main aim is not to punish students but to achieve a situation where each resident has respect for others."

Adrian Morris, president of the students' guild, welcomed the scheme and said it was part of a wider initiative to improve relations between students and the community.



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# C4 drops desk as news war heats up

By PAUL MCCANN  
Media Editor

THE DAYS of the deskbound newsreader look numbered after Channel 4 unveiled a low, pink plinth for Jon Snow to sit beside in its new £3m newsroom yesterday.

Following the example of Channel 5, which has a newsreader perched on her desk, and *Newsnight*, which dispensed with most of its desks earlier this year, Mr Snow will stand in front of a video wall, sit by his plinth or interview people on a new purple sofa.

He said yesterday that the new set would give his programme greater accessibility. "There is nothing between you and the viewer. It is direct communication."

The changes will be apparent on screen from 4 January. They mark a new phase in the life of the 16-year-old programme and extra investment of £2m a year.

The channel is to have a new Saturday night bulletin at 6.30 and has invested in out-of-studio production equipment to take the programme to the regions and overseas. The programme is also to quadruple the number of investigative stories it does. *Channel 4 News* also intends to make more use of its new second-string presenters, Krishnan Guru-Murthy and Kirsty Lang.

But the most immediate change to the show is the new orange, green and aubergine



Jon Snow taking a drink in Channel 4's new £3m newsroom yesterday

Andrew Brummman

studio set designed by Simon Jago, who designed Channel 5's multi-coloured news studio. Like the trendiest bars, it has a poured rubber floor, swatches of colour adorn the walls, and the plinth will give viewers their first glimpse of Jon Snow's legs.

"We have in the past been the trailblazer in television news," said Jim Grey, editor of *Channel 4 News*. "Now we are doing it all over again. This is the culmination of a year of thinking and is not a reaction to what others are doing." He denied that

the sofa would give the show a breakfast-television feel. It will be used only for the more "discursive" interviews, he said. *Channel 4 News*, which attracts about one million viewers every night, is facing increased competition. Channel

5's *5 News* moved its time to 7pm earlier this year and ITV plans to move its flagship news to 6.30 early in the new year. ITN, which produces *Channel 4 News*, had to pitch against Sky and independent production companies to retain the contract

earlier this year. It had to promise more regional and investigative stories and a greater role for independent producers to secure the contract. But every company bidding for the contract was told to keep Jon Snow as part of its plans.

# Darling rejects enforced pensions

By ANDREW GRICE  
Political Editor

THE GOVERNMENT has rejected plans to force the eight million workers not saving for their retirement to join a compulsory new pension scheme.

Alistair Darling, the Social Security Secretary, will announce next week a wide-ranging package of "strong incentives" to encourage people to provide for adequate income in retirement. The £5 million self-employed and 1.5 million self-employed not in company or personal schemes will be urged to take out new government-backed "stakeholder pensions".

Mr Darling's "carrot and stick" approach could include reduced national insurance payments for those who start the new pensions and "benefit penalties" for those who deliberately choose not to put money away for their old age in the hope of relying on the state.

The Government's long-awaited Green Paper on pension reform will disappoint Frank Field, the former minister for welfare reform sacked in July. He proposed a compulsory-for-all stakeholder scheme that would have redistributed money from the rich to the poor by forcing the well-off to subsidise the contributions of those on low incomes.

But Tony Blair, Chancellor Gordon Brown and Mr Darling were worried that the Field blueprint would have been seen as a backdoor tax hike. They feared this would tarnish New Labour's hard-won reputation for being "trusted on tax".

A compulsory system was supported by some senior officials at the Treasury and Department of Social Security. But Mr Darling has decided it would be unworkable as it would have "perverse effects".

For example, it would provide only a meagre return for people earning less than £9,000 a year. Many workers with little cash to spare would have had to find more money, but would still have had to rely on state handouts when they retired.

The Green Paper will include measures to head off criticism that without a compulsory system the low paid would have no incentive to save for retirement as they would know they could rely on income support. But people who could not afford contributions to the stakeholder scheme would be protected by a minimum guaranteed pension from the state.

The vast majority of those earning more than £20,000 a year already save adequately for their retirement, so Mr Darling believes that forcing them to put away more money through a compulsory scheme would be "needless taxation".

Mr Darling's target will be the key middle group earning between £12,000 and £20,000, many of whom could afford to put more cash away.

He will warn that half of today's workers will be destined to rely on social security in retirement unless they join the new scheme. "A lot of people are in for a shock," a source said yesterday.

Mr Field is expected to criticise the Government's approach, warning that the poor and unemployed will be excluded from the stakeholder scheme. But Mr Darling will announce measures to prevent those earning low incomes from relying on means-tested benefits in old age.

# Relatives located to share fortune

RELATIVES OF A Scots millionaire who died intestate last year have been found, investigators revealed yesterday.

London-based genealogists Title Research said the identities of everyone who was entitled to a share of Helen Lowe's £7m estate were known, but not all had been located.

Miss Lowe, who died weeks before her 100th birthday, was a former businesswoman in Edinburgh. Publicity surrounding the unclaimed fortune led to hundreds of phone calls and inquiries on the Law Society of Scotland's website. A 77-year-old woman claimed she was a relative after seeing Miss Lowe's picture in a newspaper.

A spokesman for Title Research, Tom Curran, said: "We are confident we know the overall position of all the people who are entitled to a share of the estate. Matters will be finalised in due course." He added that the company had examined

By HELEN LOWE

the claims of everyone who had written to it, including claims from Australia and South Africa. "We re-create family tree and superimpose the rules of succession. We identify everyone and we then find them. We work systematically and we would miss anybody," he said.

The estate will stand at about £4m after inheritance tax is deducted.

Miss Lowe, who was born in Berwickshire, was the first woman in Scotland to qualify as a chartered accountant. She started a business in 1928 but friends say she only began focusing all her talents on her career after the death of her sweetheart during the Second World War.

Her fortune is believed to have resulted from shrewd investments in property as well as shares.

## IN BRIEF

### Asylum-seekers are moved out

A GROUP of 21 Romanian asylum-seekers were yesterday moved out of the £60-a-night hotel where they were being housed, and taken to a secret location. The decision to put them up at the Inn On The Lake hotel near Gravesend, Kent, caused controversy because of the cost. Dartford residents also complained when 61 immigrant women and children were housed in a disused hospital ward.

### Lockerbie Inquiry plea to Blair

RELATIVES OF victims of the Lockerbie bombing will today ask Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, to launch an independent inquiry into the disaster. Representatives of UK Families Flight 103 will go to Downing Street to press their case. The meeting will be the first between the campaigning group and a Prime Minister.

### Wife killer loses Appeal Court bid

SQUADRON LEADER Nicholas Tucker, sentenced to life for murdering his wife after he had an affair with a Serbian interpreter, yesterday lost a Court of Appeal bid in London.

## YASMIN ALIBHAI-BROWN

Lesbianism does not exist in Indian consciousness



IN THE THURSDAY REVIEW PAGE 4

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## HOLLA



# Firm was 'close to £2m ransom deal'

GRANGER TELECOM was negotiating to pay a kidnap ransom against the express advice of the Foreign Office when the four engineers were executed.

Granger, advised by security consultants Control Risks, was in the process of trying to arrange a settlement, believed to be in the region of £2m. Just last week each of the four men had spoken to company officials to prove they were alive and as recently as last weekend Granger executives were hopeful that an arrangement was imminent.

Yesterday the Foreign Office admitted it was aware of the company's intentions and had advised it against following such a course.

"The company was keeping us informed as to what they were doing although we were not aware of the precise details," a Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday.

"The company was made very clear of Her Majesty's Government's position that it does not pay ransom. We made clear our long-standing position on ransom-paying."

Yesterday afternoon, Foreign Office minister Tony Lloyd chaired a meeting of civil servants and representatives from Granger, British Telecom and the New Zealand High Commission to discuss developments. Representatives from Control Risks were also present.

After the meeting Mr Lloyd told the Commons there was no question that the Government had given anything other than "clear and unambiguous" ad-

vice to Granger about operating in Chechnya.

Mr Lloyd said the murders of Rudolf Petschi, Stanley Shaw, Darren Hickey and Peter Kennedy were "barbaric and senseless."

"I am absolutely of the view that the advice given was specific and could not have been misinterpreted. Granger Telecom did meet with Foreign Office officials who gave that advice in very clear terms," he added.

Earlier, Philip Hammond, Tory MP for Runnymede and Weybridge, where the company is based, said that it appeared the Foreign Office had issued conflicting signals to Granger.

The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, had earlier spoken of the difficulty of trying to find out what exactly happened to the hostages. After meeting the Russian Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov, on the sidelines of a Nato meeting in Brussels, Mr Cook said: "Neither the Russian Foreign Minister nor I underestimate the difficulty of making progress in the lawless state in Chechnya."

"The Russian government throughout has sought to be as helpful as it can within its power, but that power is very limited in Chechnya."

It was revealed that the building of the Chechen company behind the telecom contract was yesterday attacked by

grenade launchers. Reports said one guard was wounded after the premises of Chechen Telecom came under fire.

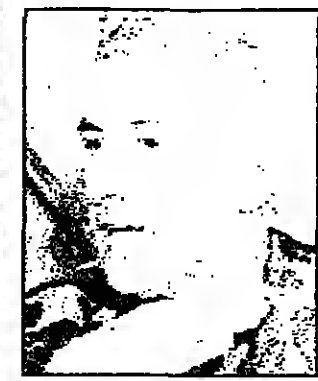
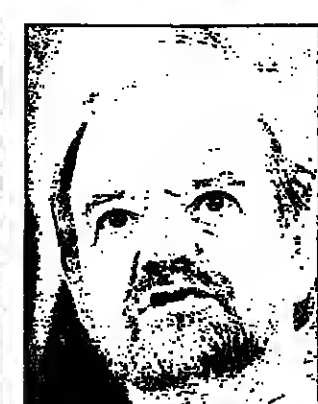
The incident took place amid rumours in London, Grozny and Moscow about the causes of the murders. These include suggestions they may have been the result of a squabble over money between several of the groups involved in Chechen hostage-taking.

Reports have circulated that despite Foreign Office denials, a ransom was paid for the two British aid workers, Camilla Carr and Jon James, who were released earlier this year.

These claims hardened recently when the Chechen President, Aslan Maskhadov, publicly attacked the chief architect of their release, business magnate Boris Berezovsky, for paying out "suitcases of cash". Unconfirmed reports circulated in Russia yesterday suggesting that the murders followed a dispute over the share-out of the spoils.

Other theories suggested the murders may have been carried out by Wahhabist warlords - devotees of Saudi Arabia's fundamentalist form of Islam. Until now they appear to have been motivated more by money than faith, but the executions may have been an attempt to assert anti-Western sentiments, and to send a message to the pro-British Mr Maskhadov to steer clear of the West.

There are also likely to be allegations that regressive pro-Soviet elements within Russia were involved.



A band of armed men in Chechnya, where Rudolf Petschi (top left), Darren Hickey and Peter Kennedy were killed. Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook (top right) Chechen leader Aslan Maskhadov and Foreign Office minister Tony Lloyd have condemned the 'barbaric' murders

## Shadowy figures making money from the hostage industry

BEFORE THE Chechen security forces blundered on to the scene to fatal effect, the British security consultancy, Control Risks, had been negotiating for the release of the hostages.

A shadowy, Le Carré-esque outfit staffed by former SAS, MI6 and police officers, Control Risks specialises in difficult operations in what are euphemistically known as "emerging markets" or - to the rest of us - extremely dangerous Third World countries.

The firm had been brought in by the hostages' employer,

Granger Telecommunications,

to deal behind-the-scenes with the kidnappers. According to its own publicity, Control Risks has helped to secure the release of hostages in more than 840 cases of kidnap or political detention since it was founded in 1975. It does not say whether it has ever failed.

One of the firm's key selling points is discretion. Based in an anonymous Victorian red brick shop and office block on Victoria Street, a few hundred yards

from Parliament and convenient for Scotland Yard, the firm's modest mission statement is: "To enable our clients to succeed in complex or hostile business environments."

It publishes "Forecast", which gives up-to-date information on political and security risk and forecasting for 120 countries. Spokesman Michael Barron will tell you about the company's basic business of risk assessment, but little else. Ask about the kidnap and hostage side of the business, and you will be met with a

stono silence. Control Risks will not confirm or deny it was involved with Granger and the Chechnya hostages. "We won't say if we work for any company," Mr Barron said.

A former Control Risks staffer who worked on general risk assessment said the ex-SAS and intelligence men - the hostage specialists - work on a separate floor. "There were a number of well-built men who looked uncomfortable in suits," said the source. "These are the experts and it is their work that makes CR's real money."

And a great deal of money can be made. Kidnapping is now a global problem, doubling in the past five years, according to Lloyd's insurance experts. Britons are attractive targets. Last month a British geologist, Jason Pope, was one of four foreigners taken hostage by a UNITA unit which attacked a diamond mine in Angola. Nothing official has been heard since.

In the past two years there have been more than 12,500 known kidnaps. The average ransom demand is \$1m (£600,000).

Set up by four ex-SAS officers in 1975, Control Risks employs 240 people in 12 offices around the world. According to Mr Barron, company turnover is about £20m a year. Only one of the founders, Simon Adamsdale, remains in post. Another, David Walker, left to set up a firm called Saladin Security but faded from public view a decade ago when it was revealed that he had been employed by Oliver North to blow up a hospital in Nicaragua at the behest of US covert operations against the Sandinistas.

In the 1980s the company hired on to its board a number of senior police and military figures. Former Metropolitan Police commissioners Sir Robert Mark and Sir Kenneth Newman both worked for the firm, as did former military men such as General Sir Frank King and the terrorism expert Major General Richard Clutterbuck.

After the knife attack on the tennis champion Monica Seles, Control Risks brought in a former FBI chief, Mike Bagley, to advise women players on protection at Wimbledon fortnight.



The cover of Control Risks brochure

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# Swaggering performance fails to upstage leading role

ACTORS ARE often mocked for their tendency to over-dramatise their own profession - all that talk of bravery and risk and fearlessness, when what they have in mind is a touring production of *Educating Rita*. But there are occasions when courage seems the only appropriate term for the steady foot they have to display. Imagine you have gone on stage on a first night, fluffed your big monologue so badly that members of your own family have walked out, and then received the worst reviews of your career. And then, on the next night, you have to do it all again, fully aware that virtually everyone will be

matching your performance against those scorching words. That was pretty much the position William Hague found himself in yesterday, returning to the Palace of Varieties' headline act - Prime Minister's Question Time - for the first time since that embarrassing moment dropped on his head. True, he could take some consolation in the box-office advance - one poll yesterday suggested the sacking of Viscount Cranborne had marginally strengthened his position with voters - but inside the House he still needed to reassert his command of those in the cheap seats.

What's more, the audience knew this was a moment of reckoning. The Opposition leader's arrival on stage is always attended with applause, but yesterday the hubbub was unusually sustained, claps of all persuasions bleating in anticipation as he rose to put his first question. "After all the bluster about harmonising Euro taxes," he began. It was a week late, perhaps, but he'd finally got back on script, and he appeared to be in confident, even swaggering mood. Unfortunately, upstaging the lead is not going to be quite as easy for some time to come. Tony Blair stepped past him with an assured ad-lib: "In

## THE SKETCH



THOMAS  
SUTCLIFFE

the matter of bluster I recognise when I've met my match," he said, turning to grin at his Labour col-

leagues. Not exactly Oscar Wilde, I grant you, but delivery is nine-tenths of the law in Parliament and the Prime Minister's reply had a relish to it which is missing when he's genuinely under pressure. Other replies were less assured. "He's become the Basil Fawlty of Europe," said Mr Hague a little later. "Every time you see a German you say, 'Don't mention the tax harmonisation.'" This was surely the moment for Mr Blair to point out that if he was Basil then Mr Hague has been playing Manuel in recent days, spinning in baffled circles while moaning "Hi know nothink!" Instead Mr Blair settled for one of

those one-size-fits-all dismissals - "I don't think he's getting very far with this," uttered in tones of sorrowing condescension. Backbenchers had identified the Paymaster-General as a rather more promising sore point for Labour. Paddy Ashdown opened the firing with two questions about Mr Robinson's slow progress in handling a problem with pensioners' tax rebates, describing him bluntly as a "lame-duck minister". After that several Tory members pulled out their fowling pieces. Edward Garnier came closest to the target with the simplest question - "Could the Prime Minister give three good

reasons why the Paymaster-General should remain in office?" Three was perhaps an unreasonably tall order, but Mr Blair proved unable to muster even one. "Holidays in Tuscany" may have crossed his mind but he sensibly declined to voice the thought. In one of his more effective digs at Mr Hague's recent embarrassments, the Prime Minister had pointed out that when Lord Cranborne had said "back me or sack me" the Conservative leader "had succeeded in doing both". In the matter of his own ill-trained spaniel, Mr Blair is now conspicuously doing neither.

# Blair accused of 'Euro tax waffle'

THE PRIME MINISTER was dubbed the "Basil Fawlty of Europe" yesterday as the Tory leader, William Hague, attacked him for seeking to cover up the threat of European tax harmonisation by "meaningless reassurances and waffle". After Tony Blair's joint statement on the issue with the German Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, Mr Hague claimed during question time that the Government was misleading people over its intentions to harmonise corporate taxation, saying: "Every time you meet a German you go round saying, 'Don't mention the tax harmonisation'. This letter is yet another example of giving one impression in Europe and another in the UK."

## TAX HARMONISATION

By Sarah Schaefer, Political Reporter

leader of having given into the Eurosceptics in his increasingly "anti-European party". Pledging that the Government would not return to the "days of Tory diplomacy that left this country without influence at the margins of Europe", he said: "We will oppose any measure at all that is against Britain's interest, whether on taxes or in any other field."

But Mr Hague said: "After all the bluster we've had from this Government about harmonising European taxes it is not amazing that the letter which you signed with the German Chancellor fails to rule out the harmonisation of capital taxes?"

"Is it not the latest attempt to cover up the threat of tax harmonisation with meaningless reassurances and waffle?"

Mr Hague went on to argue Germany was clearly hoping for progress towards harmon-

ising taxes at this week's Vienna summit. "There is nothing anti-European about believing we should decide our taxes here in the House of Commons. The truth is that you now have to ask the Germans to use a different word about this subject," he said.

Pointing to the opposition of several other EU states to tax harmonisation, Mr Blair said that the only government that had agreed to harmonise taxes in the UK was the previous Conservative government.

He added, during rowdy exchanges: "We have no intention of agreeing to raising taxes across Europe. We actually want a lower tax burden on our people. But the way to get this argument through is to win the argument by staying firm and engaged, not by glorying in it as the Conservative Party are doing as an excuse to indulge their anti-Europeanism."

To Tory cheers, Mr Hague replied: "Nothing you've done remotely resembles standing

firm! If you won't tell the House what is being negotiated, we will, because we've got the list here."

"The shipping tax relief, that you voted for. The film tax relief, that you introduced. The enterprise zones, that your constituents work in. These are currently being negotiated."

"No wonder the European tax commissioner says that the Government is fully on board with tax harmonisation."

"Isn't your endless habit of saying one thing to one audience and another to another finally catching up with you?"

Mr Blair repeated it had been a Conservative government that had agreed to tax harmonisation and abolished duty free. He added: "You have given in to the Eurosceptic wing of your party who are now running your policy... It is actually in the British national interest to make sure we win arguments in Europe, not use arguments as an excuse for turning our back on Europe."



Labour MP Ken Livingstone launching an initiative yesterday to increase home security and energy efficiency awareness among older people in the capital, set up by Help the Aged and London Electricity. Adrian Gillan

# Abortion should be legalised in Northern Ireland, say MPs

THE BATTLE for the liberalisation of the UK's abortion laws will intensify today with a call for the procedure to be legalised in Northern Ireland.

A report calling for the change, from the all-party group on population, development and reproductive health, could be followed by a backbench bill to allow abortion on demand. The Labour chair of the group, Christine McCafferty, MP for Calder Valley, came eighth in the ballot of MPs for the right to introduce private legislation and is considering abortion liberalisation, although it would stand no

chance of reaching the statute book. "I have about 400 letters and I will think very carefully," she said.

Her group's report recommends that the Government allow abortion in Northern Ireland to end the anomaly with mainland Britain. It also calls on the Government to recognise "the need for safe, legal abortion as an integral part of sexual and reproductive health services for young people."

Maria Eagle, Labour MP for

Liverpool Garston, who came second in the ballot, is also being pressed to take up a private member's bill on liberalising abortion laws, although last night both MPs said they had yet to reach a decision.

Ms McCafferty is a committee member of the Parliamentary Pro-Choice group which met in the Commons last night to discuss tactics for moving forward its agenda for abortion liberalisation.

The Pro-Choice group, chaired by Baroness Gould, is hoping to use backbench legislation to change the law to allow abortion on demand up to

14 weeks into pregnancy, as reported in *The Independent* last week. From 15 to 24 weeks, women would require the agreement of one doctor.

At present, women require the agreement of two doctors, which some claim can lead to delays. The group also want to require doctors to register if they are opposed to abortion on personal grounds to avoid them being involved in the procedure.

Ms Eagle, twin sister of social security minister Angela Eagle, is said to be considering the issue, but friends indicated that she was unlikely to introduce a bill on abortion.

**Argentine arms**  
BRITAIN HAS approved the export of smoke grenade launchers to Argentina's UN peacekeeping forces in Cyprus, Foreign Office Minister Tony Lloyd disclosed.

**Tutors failed**  
A TOTAL of 254 driving instructors have been struck off in the past four years, the Transport minister Glenda Jackson said in a written reply.

**Rail access**  
ALL NEW trains will be adapted to be accessible to disabled people from 1 January, the Social Security minister Baroness Hollis of Heigham said.

**Today's Business**  
COMMONS - 2.30pm  
Treasury questions.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

■ Estimates debate on prison sentences and the alternatives.  
■ Estimates debate on New Deal Pathfinders and Pathways into Work for Lone Parents.  
■ Debate on public inquiry into conduct of surgeon Rodney Ledward and its effects on his patients LORDS - 3pm  
■ Social Security Contributions (Transfer of Functions) Bill, second reading.  
■ Debate on alleviating devastation caused by hurricane in Central America.

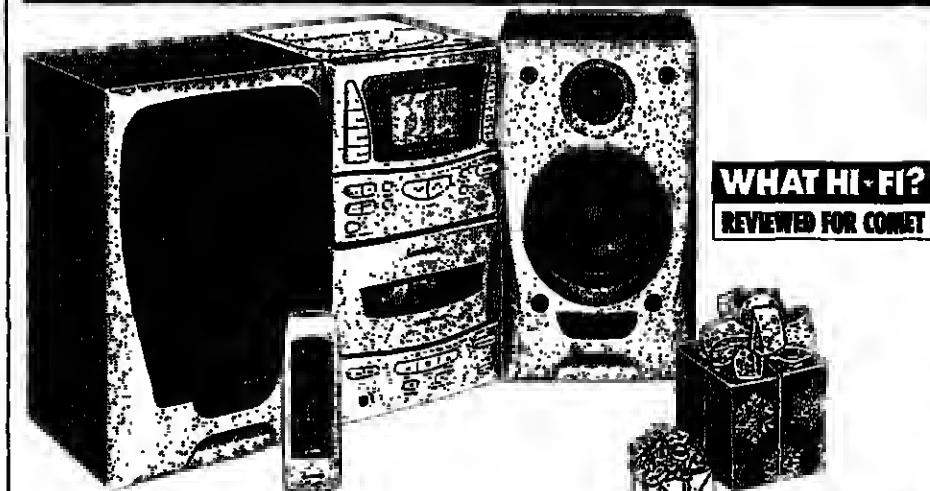
**Beef losses**  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS minister Dr Kim Howells challenged the supermarket chain Tesco over claims that it made an average loss of 30p per kilo of British beef after processing costs, despite farmers' complaints that they are being squeezed on price. "In the light of the declared profits of some of the supermarket chains, that bears some examination," he said.

**Teething trouble**  
CHILDREN in Manchester have the worst dental health in the UK, while those in Solihull have the best, Health minister Alan Milburn said. A survey of five-year-olds found that Mancunian youngsters were more likely to have decayed, missing or filled teeth, he said.

## THE HOUSE

**Judgment call**  
THE GOVERNMENT was accused of putting "political spin" on the actions of dissident Army officer Major Eric Joyce. Tory MP Keith Simpson (Mid Norfolk) urged ministers not to interfere in any decisions affecting his future, adding: "The case cast serious doubts on ministerial judgement." Major Joyce has been at odds with the Army since he published a pamphlet criticising the "elite" in the service.

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# Advertisers help parents beat commercials

By Rhys Williams

THREE MESSAGES DESIGNED TO MAKE YOUR CHILDREN PESTER YOU

THE ADVERTISING industry issued practical advice yesterday to help parents to cope with the annual outbreak of "pester power" from their children in the run-up to Christmas.

But just as the Advertising Association, which represents advertisers and agencies, was urging parents to encourage family television viewing and involve children in buying decisions, many in the marketing business denied such a thing as "pester power" existed or, if it did, that they were at all responsible for it.

Conscious of the glut of advertisements promoting any number of toys and computer games, the association has issued a booklet outlining ways in which parents can fend off the "I want" tendency rife among children at this time of year. It advises parents, for example, not to feel guilty about not buying something that is beyond their means. It urges compromise where feasible, but otherwise to stand firm.

The self-help guide is a further attempt by the association to fend off the threat of tighter controls on advertising to children. In Sweden and Norway, ads aimed at under-12s are banned. The Swedes are apparently keen to use their EU presidency in 2001 to ensure that stricter rules are applied across Europe.

While such a move would be welcomed by Friends of the Earth, which is arguing for a pre-9pm watershed ban on



**Lego:** Young lad creates wonders with his Lego set, becomes superstar and is rewarded with ticker tape parade. However, we never see the fruits of his work as "it's in the box". The idea is to stimulate child's imagination and creativity, wholesome attributes that any right-thinking parent would be happy to cultivate.



**Scalextric:** Lad becomes dad, picks up son and regales him with the joys of Scalextric while waiting around the maternity ward. Except he's holding the wrong baby. The ad recognises that the Playstation and replica kits are the staple of most homes and that the best hope for introducing Scalextric to a new generation is through nostalgia.



**Sunny Delight:** Children's soft drink launch of the year, as much based on the effectiveness of the whole marketing mix (in-store displays, money-off coupons) as the advertising. Still enjoyed high-profile TV promotion, in which boys open the fridge and find, to their joy, Sunny Delight. The message is aimed squarely at mother.

children's advertising as part of its campaign to stem consumerism. It would be opposed vigorously by the advertising industry.

Children's advertising in Britain is controlled by Broadcast Advertising Clearance Centre guidelines, which stipulate ads "must not encourage children to pester or make a nuisance of themselves to other people. Phrases such as 'ask mummy to buy' are unacceptable". And broadly speak-

ing, the controls appear to work. The Independent Television Commission, which polices commercial television, receives "a handful" of complaints about advertisements that allegedly exploit children's desires. None of them has been upheld.

Agencies say that although their work is aimed at stimulating demand for products, they are just one of several factors at work. "Pester power" is a misused catchphrase

banded about by consumer groups who have not given it much thought," says Jane Mathews, managing partner of J Walter Thompson, whose portfolio includes Smarties, Dairy Lea and Frosties. "Peer pressure and what they see and feel around them is far more important. What their parents say, their older brother or sister say, is a much greater influence."

"[Pester power] also dodges the issue that parents can just

say 'no'. It's part of a bigger society thing where people do not want to accept responsibility. They prefer to blame someone else, in this case advertising."

Martin Phelps, business director of Ogilvy & Mather, which handles Fisher Price, Barbie and Hot Wheels, admits that television images do condition young minds, but says programmes are far more significant than the commercials in between. "You only have to look at Teletubbies last year -

no advertising, but massive demand," says Mr Phelps. "It's all about what their peers in the playground are saying. Word of mouth works brilliantly. Yoyos weren't advertised."

Part of the fear that underpins the legislation in Sweden is research that suggests children under 12 do not fully understand the effect of advertising and cannot assess products. However, recent work by Dr Brian Young, a psychologist at the University of Exeter,

shows young children are far more sophisticated than previously thought. According to Dr Young, by the age of five, 50 per cent of children know what an advertisement is attempting to do. By the age of eight, that figure rises to 80 per cent. What no one disputes is that children are playing a more important role in a family's purchasing decisions, but this, say agencies, is because parents now tend to consult their offspring.

Research by the Kid Connection, Saatchi & Saatchi's specialist unit, estimates children have an influence in £1bn of adult spending.

The chief difference at Christmas is that children do not need an invitation to say what they want.

"But what's the problem with that?" says Mr Phelps. "They are going to buy toys anyway so there is nothing wrong in a kid letting them know which one they want."

## Fertility code will allow egg sharing

THE HUMAN Fertilisation and Embryology Authority has backed down over its proposal to ban "egg sharing" for women trying to conceive through in vitro fertilisation. Instead the practice will become subject to tough guidelines, the authority said yesterday.

It has conceded that payments to sperm and egg donors will continue, although "serious consideration" is being given to the idea of a national donor service to raise awareness and recruit donors. The authority had considered phasing out egg sharing altogether after a woman trying for a baby learnt that another patient had been successful using one of her donated eggs.

In egg sharing, a donor agrees to allow some of her eggs to be given to others in exchange for a free attempt at IVF. The authority has said it would like more women to give eggs, but without a financial incentive. But the authority concluded it would not be right to ban paid egg sharing, "which can be enormously beneficial to both sharer and receiver."

"We were influenced by the argument that egg sharers are not motivated by money but by the desire for a baby," said Ruth Deech, the chairman. "It is clear, however, that such egg

By Glenda Cooper  
Social Affairs Correspondent

sharing needs to be closely controlled and regulated, and we will be working on producing specific guidelines on this for our Code of Practice."

Among other issues, this will look at consent, the information given to potential sharers and the choices they have when a limited number of eggs has been collected.

Ms Deech said that, while they believed that sperm and egg donation should be "a gift, freely and voluntarily given", it had become clear that the removal of payments (£15 per donation plus expenses) "would seriously jeopardise the supply of sperm donors. We know also that sperm donors are advertised on the Internet and there is an emerging international trade in gametes," Ms Deech said. "We therefore feel it is important that the supply of safe, screened sperm in the UK remains adequate."

Dr Kamal Ahuja, scientific director of the Cromwell Hospital in London, the largest egg sharing centre in the world, welcomed the decision. "I'm very relieved on behalf of the patients, for both donors and recipients," he said. "I'm also pleased they are going to reg-

ulate it and it will not become a free-for-all."

There are already strict guidelines at the Cromwell Hospital. "We would like to work in close conjunction with the HFEA to put guidelines together," said Dr Ahuja.

In the medical journal *Human Reproduction* last month Dr Ahuja, with Professor Robert Edwards, whose work led to the birth of the first test-tube baby 20 years ago, and the obstetrician Professor Ian Cooke argued passionately that egg sharing should continue.

They said the only alternative to egg sharing was relying on women coming forward voluntarily to donate eggs. As that involved exposing them to fertility drugs to stimulate ovulation without any benefit, they believed it could not be justified.

Professor Cooke said yesterday he was pleased by the decision. "This is taking the commonsensical approach."

But Susan Rice, chief executive of Issue, the National Fertility Association, said that while she welcomed more regulation, she feared egg sharing was an "emotional time bomb. We are very concerned about what is going to happen about women who have shared eggs and not got pregnant," she said.

## Graduate demand 'to keep on rising'

YOUNG PEOPLE should ignore gloomy predictions about an over-supply of graduates and still go to university, says a government-funded survey.

Degree-holders will take virtually all new jobs created over the next decade, including those traditionally done by those with "sub-degree" level qualifications.

"In the future we won't have fitters mending machines, but graduates with sophisticated programming ability," says the report's author, Neil Blake, director of the research group Business Strategies.

Dr Blake debunks a large body of existing research, which predicts that there will be too many university-leavers chasing too few jobs. "People who can do degrees should not

By Barrie Clement  
Labour Editor

be put off by any shortage of employment. The jobs are still going to be there and they'll be much better jobs than those available to other parts of the population," he says.

To the apparent surprise of the Department for Education and Employment, which funded the research, the supply of graduates will be matched by demand, Dr Blake says.

The report accepts that some of the extra demands for graduates may be prompted by "qualification inflation", where degree-level attainment is not actually required to do the job.

However, Dr Blake emphasised there is a genuine need for more graduates because

jobs are becoming increasingly more complex. He cites the example of senior secretaries, most of whom are now involved in far more than just typing and clerical work.

The study, *Tomorrow's Graduates*, points out that while graduates earned 68 per cent more than those without a qualification in 1979, the latest figures showed they earned 97 per cent more.

Dr Blake asserts that employers would not be paying proportionately more for degree-holders if their expertise was not being used or if there was an "over supply".

Business Strategies forecasts that by 2005, the demand for highly qualified people will have risen to about 7.3 million, up from 5.8 million in 1996.

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# Railways: Track-owning company told it is making too much money as MPs demand new safety measures on trains

## Railtrack fury over £100m profits curb

By PHILIP THORNTON  
Transport Correspondent

RAILTRACK REACTED with fury yesterday after the industry regulator announced plans to cap its "excessive" profits in a move that could wipe £100m off its bottom line.

The company warned that plans to limit the amount it could charge train companies would make it more difficult to raise money on the financial markets. And it appeared to put itself on a collision course with the Government by hinting that it might pull out of projects such as the Channel Tunnel rail link and London Underground.

Chris Bolt, the rail regulator, plans to cut the amount that the company can charge train companies to use the track, and will demand tougher performance targets. He said he could impose unlimited fines on Railtrack if it failed to deliver.

Analysts said the new formula could cut Railtrack's profits by £100m. In its last full year, the company reported pre-tax profits of £388m on turnover of £2.46bn. Mr Bolt said his move would allow passengers to benefit from lower fares, extra investment or even a tax rebate.

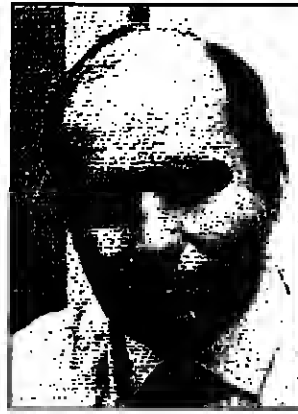
Mr Bolt yesterday outlined the basis on which Railtrack's finances would be regulated over five years from 2001. It would be allowed to make a return of between 5 and 6 per cent on its as-



Regulator Chris Bolt (left) and Railtrack's Gerald Corbett

sets, not the 10 per cent he said it now made. He plans to define the asset base against which returns will be measured at £2.54bn - its flotation value - rather than its £8bn stock market value. Every 1 per cent cap could cut £20m off its profits.

"Current returns appear to be excessive," Mr Bolt said. He said his proposal was not open to negotiation and it was up to Railtrack to decide whether it wanted to behave like a monopoly utility or an innovator. He challenged Railtrack to outline "new ways" of delivering a better railway that would involve it taking more risk, and therefore earn a higher reward. Railtrack's deal with Virgin Trains to bring the West Coast main line from London to Glasgow up to 140mph instead of about 100mph in exchange



for a share of revenue could be a model.

Mr Bolt added: "Train operators will see a reduction in access charges and whether that gets put into higher investment, lower fares or back to the taxpayer is a matter for John Prescott [the Deputy Prime Minister]."

Railtrack said the regulator's proposals were "very disappointing". Gerald Corbett, the chief executive, warned that it would damage the company's ability to invest in necessary work and accused Mr Bolt of failing to take account of projects such as London Underground and its option to build the second phase of the Channel Tunnel rail link. "Mr Bolt is adopting an old-style, traditional utilities approach to our charges and it's out of date," he said.

But Mr Bolt said his job was

to regulate the national network rather than new projects.

A spokesman for the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, for which Mr Prescott is responsible, said yesterday: "The Government thinks everybody should take a sensible view. Either they want the Government to... regulate it up to the hilt or they want to start delivering a better service."

The Rail Freight Group welcomed Mr Bolt's move, saying the company had "failed" the industry and had invested only £5m in freight infrastructure, or 0.5 per cent of total investment, even though it provided 10 per cent of its income.

Meanwhile, the Commons Select Transport Committee criticised Railtrack's monitoring of its contractors. Its report said: "Where the causes of incidents which could have led to serious accidents are attributable to the incompetence or inadequate site knowledge of staff, Railtrack must take responsibility for the work of its contractors."

A spokesman for Railtrack said the company had already decided to take a more "hands-on approach" when the maintenance contracts were re-let. "We admitted ourselves that we need to get tougher on the management of maintenance contracts and we have hit squads to monitor the quality of work."

News analysis, page 21



Slam-door trains, a big factor in the death toll at Clapham, are still being used 10 years later

David Rose

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## Slam-door trains 'must go by 2003'

By PHILIP THORNTON

A CROSS-PARTY group of MPs called yesterday for the hated "slam-door" trains to be taken out of service or modified for safer passenger use within four years because of the higher risk of deaths if a train is involved in an accident. The average number of deaths in a crash is three times greater when a Mark I slam-door carriage is involved.

The Commons Select Transport Committee blamed the Health and Safety Executive and the rail franchising director for failing to abolish the ageing Mark I trains when the rail industry was privatised.

Gwyneth Dunwoody, the committee chairman, said: "There is a danger and a problem with Mark I rolling stock and we believe it should go. We don't think it's acceptable that companies should have any deals whereby they say, 'We are very sorry but we can't afford to get rid of these carriages'."

"We don't want any bargains to be entered into which allow retention of rolling stock which could be a danger to the public. This committee is not happy with safety, which is not far enough up the level of priorities for some people as it should be."

The report called on the BSE, the franchising director, the new Strategic Rail Authority and the train companies to replace and modify the trains by 1 January 2003. "The failure in the first franchising round to secure the withdrawal of Mark I stock must not be repeated."

There are about 2,300 Mark I carriages in use, mainly on three franchises in southern England - South West Trains, Connex South Central and Connex South Eastern. Connex South Eastern is committed to replacing them by 2006.

Jimmy Knapp, leader of the rail union RMT, said: "Privatisation, fragmentation and contracting out of the railway is creating a pass-the-buck attitude, with the danger that safety standards could be put on the back burner."

The report also said the rail industry was not doing enough to combat vandalism, which it said was "a very serious and growing threat to railway safety". It called for a three-year programme to clear lineside rubbish and repair all rail boundary fences. A vandalism and trespass hotline should be set up by Railtrack and British Transport Police.

The committee called for the role of rail safety regulation to be taken away from Railtrack and given to an independent safety authority. It said Railtrack's plans for creating an arm's-length organisation were "not acceptable". The Government effectively pre-empted this recommendation on Tuesday when it said it was looking at setting up such a body, which could cut the time taken to find the cause of disasters.

A Railtrack spokesman said there was no criticism of the company implicit in the recommendation, adding: "If someone can come up with a justification that improves safety, then we would consider it." The RMT welcomed the committee's recommendation.

In a crash, the relatively weak body of the Mark I carriages, caused by the method of construction, offers less protection to passengers than modern rolling stock. Also, most carriages have doors that must be slammed shut and have no lock mechanism, so doors can open while the train is moving. This can lead to people falling out or the doors striking people on platforms.

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# Nasa looks for life on Jupiter moon

THE AMERICAN space agency is to search for life under the frozen ocean of Europa, a moon of Jupiter that could be the most likely place in the solar system for the evolution of extra-terrestrial lifeforms.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) is finalising plans to send a small but sophisticated probe to see if there is liquid water - and possibly life - under the frozen surface of the fourth largest Jovian satellite.

In the week that scientists announced there is less water than they had thought on Mars - and what little there is exists as ice - space explorers are turning their sights on Europa as the place best suited for life beyond our planet.

Christopher Chyba, Professor of geological and environmental studies at Stanford University, said the presence of liquid water under the frozen

BY STEVE CONNOR  
Science Editor

surface of Europa would greatly increase the chances of finding life. "We don't know yet whether there really is a subsurface ocean on Europa, but it's looking more and more likely. If there is an ocean, the exciting question will be whether it contains life," he said.

Nasa is expected to announce next month the details of the instruments it will place on a small, 20kg (44lb) spacecraft that will be launched in 2003 to orbit Europa to look for signs of liquid water.

"Over the past 10 years on Earth we've learnt that there is a deep terrestrial biosphere, a world of micro-organisms that lives beneath our feet in the subsurface," Professor Chyba told a meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco. "This discovery makes it

seem possible that a place like Europa could harbour life of its own."

The Europa Orbiter mission will carry an altimeter, designed to detect any tidal increase in the height of the moon's frozen surface. If the mission is successful, a second probe would be sent to land and melt through the thick ice and send a robot submarine to explore the watery world beneath.

Images of Europa captured by the Galileo spacecraft in 1996 indicated that the moon's surface is like a cracked snooker ball. The ice had broken up and shifted round like jigsaw pieces, suggesting that these icebergs must be lubricated by warm water below.

Professor Chyba said the Orbiter's altimeter could settle the issue of whether there is liquid water under the ice but a second instrument, a ground-penetrating radar, would help

to determine whether there is one large subsurface ocean, or a number of discontinuous seas. "If the orbiter confirms that Europa has a liquid ocean, then it will become one of the hottest places in the solar system to search for life," he said.

Europa's surface temperatures hover around minus 160C. Although the cold could freeze the European ocean solid, scientists believe friction caused by a tug of gravitational forces between Jupiter and its 12 moons could keep the subsurface water liquid.

There is also the possibility that Europa has hot underwater vents, spewing out mineral-rich deposits that could act as an energy source for life-forms to evolve, in much the same way that some life-forms on Earth thrive around vents on the deep seabed.

Tomorrow in the Friday Review: Destination Europa



An artist's impression of the Orbiter probe approaching Europa, the fourth largest of Jupiter's 12 moons. Nasa

## Russians test space bug to eat your pants

ALTHOUGH SPACESUITS may appear to be the last word in sterile cleanliness, they hide an awful truth: Underneath, the astronauts may have been wearing the same underwear for up to a week.

But salvation could be at hand from invisible helpers - bacteria that eat pants.

The reason for astronauts' infrequent changes is that in orbit, space is - ironically - at a premium. Space stations such as Mir are cramped, and each astronaut produces an average of

BY CHARLES ARTHUR  
Technology Editor

bargain. *New Scientist* magazine reports today that scientists at Russia's Institute for Biological and Medical Problems in Moscow have begun looking for the perfect cocktail of bacteria that will physically digest the astronauts' underpants. "This will be a revolution in the science of biodegradation," Vyacheslav Ilyin, the project manager, told the magazine. "Cosmonauts identify waste as one of the most acute problems they encounter in space."

All the waste produced in Mir is compressed and stored in sealed containers, and swapped for fresh supplies from cargo ships, which burn up before reaching the Earth's atmosphere. But that waste could provide useful fuel. Many bacteria on Earth, particularly in landfills, eat up waste that humans find noxious, producing methane gas, which can be burnt as fuel, as a by-product.

The Russian project aims to find the most suitable combination of microbes. The search could take up to a decade but would eventually produce a disposal unit able to eat plastic, cellulose and what is delicately termed "other organic waste" from the spacecraft.

According to the timetable, there should be a fully working version ready by 2017, when Russia hopes to send a team of astronauts to Mars. That mission would take at least two years each way - and planners are keen to avoid any source of argument. Especially over questions such as: "Are you really wearing those pants for another day?"



The spacesuit looks sterile - but what is underneath?

2.5kg (5.5lb) of waste each day, occupying a volume of nine litres if uncompressed. Washing machines are hardly standard fittings, and although Mir does have a shower, frequent changes of the single-use underwear - made of a paper-cotton mix - are not part of procedure. It would just create too much rubbish.

But now Russian researchers are trying to find a solution, and generate fuel into the

coverage  
something is lower

In the UK, the Orange network has more transmitters in more places than any other digital mobile network, giving better quality coverage to 98% of the population.

## MILLENNIUM BUG WATCH

PERHAPS YOU are not worried yet about the millennium bug. But the American Red Cross is. Its website has a page, quietly added earlier this month, offering lots of advice which - while rational - carries worrying undertones.

After suggesting you get in touch with manufacturers of things such as electronic garage door openers, it abruptly suggests: "Stock disaster supplies to last several days to a week for yourself and those who live with you. This includes having non-perishable foods, stored water, and an ample supply of prescription and non-prescription medications that you regularly use." Then it adds, strangely: "The Red Cross doesn't recommend hoarding supplies."

But cash? Yes. "Have some extra cash on hand in case computer-controlled electronic transactions involving ATM cards, credit cards and the like cannot be processed. Plan to keep cash in a safe place, and withdraw money from your bank in small amounts well in advance of 12/31/99 to avoid long lines at the bank at the last minute."

Petrol? "Plan to fill your

automobile gas tank a day or so before 12/31/99." Power? "In case the power fails, plan to use alternative cooking devices... Have extra blankets, coats, hats, and gloves to keep warm... Have plenty of flashlights and extra batteries on hand. Don't use candles for emergency lighting."

For anyone still feeling calm after that, it concludes: "Be prepared to relocate to a shelter for warmth and protection during a prolonged power outage or if for any other reason local officials request or require that you leave your home. Listen to a battery-operated radio or television for information about where shelters will be available."

Perhaps this is a good time to buy a battery-operated TV if you can think of any. The British Red Cross meanwhile has no Year 2000 advice on its web pages at present.

CHARLES ARTHUR



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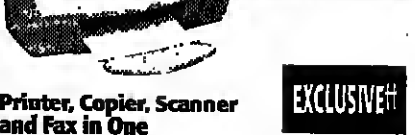
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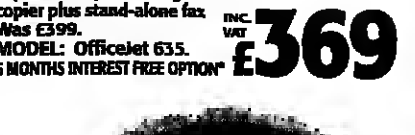
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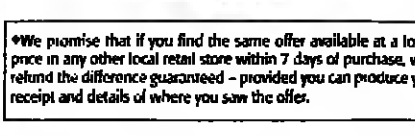
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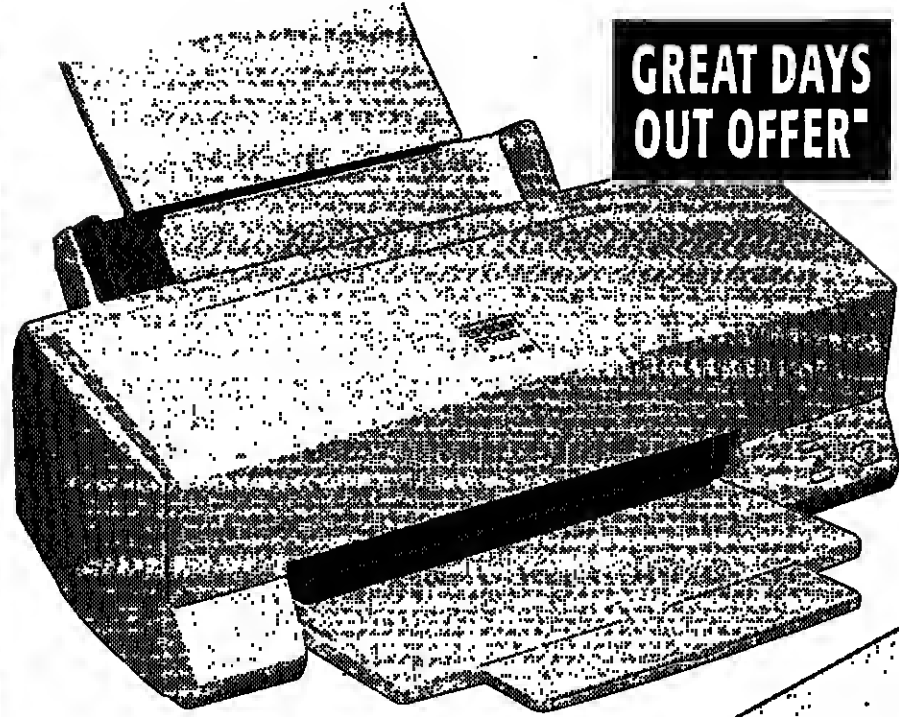
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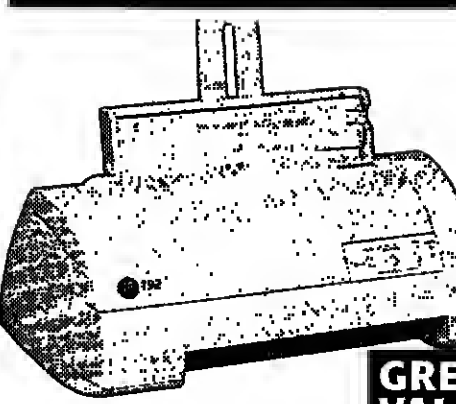
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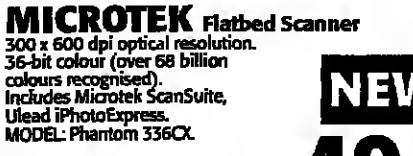
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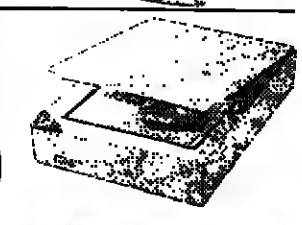


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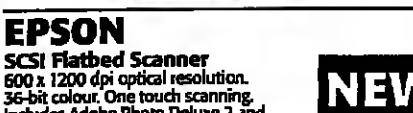


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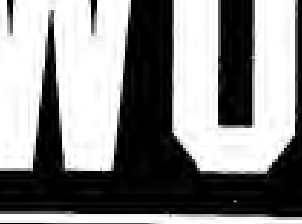


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Judge ban Viagra on



# Dean censured for 'callous' sacking

THE DEAN of Westminster Abbey was reprimanded by a government report yesterday for the way in which he dismissed the abbey's award-winning organist.

The means employed by the abbey to dismiss the organist and his wife "must score gamma minus on the scale of natural justice", Lord Jauncey concluded at the end of a 12-day hearing. He added that had the dean and chapter acted differently, a "less dramatic resolution" could have been reached.

However, the hearing upheld the Very Rev Wesley Carr's decision to dismiss Dr Martin Neary, organist and master of the choristers of the abbey, and his wife, Penny, the concert secretary, in April for gross misconduct. The Nearys were dismissed for alleged financial irregularities relating to a company they had set up to administer fees from concerts. The dean and chapter had not known of the company's existence and accused the couple of abusing their position "to further their own financial gain".

However, the Nearys insisted the fund had been set up on the advice of accountants to avoid tax problems, and appealed to the Queen as head of the abbey.

In July, the Queen appointed Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, a senior Scottish judge, to ad-

BY CLARE GARNER

judicate on her behalf. Issuing his decision yesterday that the Nearys were guilty of gross misconduct, Lord Jauncey said: "They used their position as organist and music department secretary to make secret profits over a prolonged period and they entirely failed to inform the abbey authorities of what they were doing, notwithstanding the fact that there were ample opportunities to do so and no good reason for not doing so."

"I consider that this conduct... fatally undermined the relationship of trust and confidence which should have subsisted between them and the abbey. I am therefore satisfied that the dean and chapter were justified in summarily dismissing them."

Dr Carr said last night he thought dismissing the Nearys had done less damage than if "we'd pulled a carpet" over the matter. "I do think it shows that a Christian organisation can act with integrity and honesty. Where money is involved, you have very little choice and that is what we did."

The Nearys said yesterday they regarded the penalty as "out of proportion". In a statement, Dr Neary said: "We find it hard to understand how, if we have been found to have acted without dishonesty or conceal-

ment and in good faith, our actions can still be considered sufficiently ill-judged to constitute gross misconduct."

Since Dr Carr's arrival at Westminster Abbey almost two years ago, the 900-year-old institution has rarely been out of the headlines. His controversial programme of reform, entitled "Recovering the Calm", has included unpopular measures such as a purge of unpaid volunteers over the age of 75 and the introduction of a 15 entrance fee. And his latest idea of cancelling the abbey Christmas trees was deemed downright foolhardy. Only later he found out that the trees were an annual gift from the Queen.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, called last night for a period of "healing" at the abbey.

"This has been a difficult and testing time for the abbey and for all those who have been involved in its work and worship," he said. "I would hope that in the light of Lord Jauncey's judgment it will now be possible for the abbey to move forward."



The Very Rev Wesley Carr: Dismissing the Nearys had done less damage than if "we'd pulled a carpet" over the matter

Mark Childers

## THE DEAN

The Very Rev Wesley Carr, 57, has a reputation for being a remote, insensitive man who deals high-handedly with his staff. Since arriving at Westminster Abbey in February 1997, he has caused many upsets - just as he did during his previous 10-year tenure as Dean of Bristol Cathedral.



A former senior member of staff at Bristol, who served at the cathedral for 22 years, says the six years under Dr Carr were "the unhappiest years of my career". Before that, Dr Carr was a canon at Chelmsford Cathedral, during which time the then Bishop of Chelmsford, the Right Rev John Trillo, said of him: "Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?"

Dr Carr is programme adviser to the Tavistock Institute of Human Relations in London. He is married to Natalie, and has one daughter. He is an academic at heart, with degrees from Oxford and Cambridge, and has written a number of books.

The Bishop of Bristol, the Right Rev Barry Rogerson, is among the few who have something positive to say about Dr Carr. He has a "desire for the truth and integrity" and an ability to "see things clearly", in his view.

## THE CHURCH MUSICIAN

Dr Martin Neary is one of the most respected figures in the world of church music. The zenith of his career was arranging the music and conducting the choir for the funeral service of Diana, Princess of Wales, an achievement for which he was decorated by the Queen. As a boy, Dr Neary was in the choir of the Chapel Royal, singing at the christenings of Prince Charles and Princess Anne and at the Coronation.



Dr Neary, 58, and his wife, Penny, 54, are much loved at Westminster Abbey, where they have both lived and worked for the past 10 years as organist and master of the choristers, and abbey secretary respectively. They also have a considerable number of friends among the great and the good, who were quick to rally after their dismissal. Before going to Westminster Abbey, Dr Neary was master of the choristers at Winchester Cathedral for 15 years. The couple have three children.

Dr Neary is the only person to have been elected president of the Royal College of Organists twice. He has raised the profile of the abbey's music considerably, taking the choir on 12 foreign tours.

CLARE GARNER

## Judge bans Viagra on Net

THE OPERATOR of an Internet website that offers the impotence drug Viagra for sale was ordered yesterday to stop trading by a High Court judge.

Dean Sithwents, trading as Viagra-plus, was banned by Mr Justice Rattee from marketing any pharmaceutical preparations by reference to the name Viagra. The injunction was granted to Viagra manufacturer Pfizer, which wants to stop sales not under prescription.

The decision marks the latest stage in the company's struggle to protect the trade name for the drug sildenafil, which has caused its shares to rocket since it was approved for sale in the US in March.

A spokesman for Pfizer said that the company had followed up roughly 100 different instances of infringements of the Viagra trademark in Britain this year alone. "There are websites, Viagra joke books, all sorts of things," he said. "Usually it stops after one letter from our lawyers pointing out the infringement. But with others we have to take it further."

Yesterday's case was be-

BY CHARLES ARTHUR  
Technology Editor

lieved to be the first injunction in Britain against a website, though there have been a number of cases in America.

The court was told that Mr Sithwents's website, which is hosted in the US, advertised pornographic services as well as Viagra, which was plainly being supplied without prescription. "It is criminal activity and should be stopped," the Pfizer spokesman said. Viagra is now licensed in the UK but is not yet available on the NHS and is only being sold privately in limited circumstances.


Mr Sithwents, of Wolverhampton, who was not present or represented, was "very hard to catch". He appeared to run his business by mobile phone from wherever he happened to be, the court was told.

One of Pfizer's concerns was that it could face adverse claims if problems arose from somebody taking Viagra without medical advice. The injunction is effective until a further court hearing next Monday.

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BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
AND DANIEL WHISTON

The variation revealed by the figures, included in the annual hospital league tables for the first time this year, was condemned by Professor Gordon McVie, director of the Cancer Research Campaign. "It has got

PERFORMANCE OF NHS ACUTE TRUSTS		
% patients admitted with 12 months		
TOP, all 100%		BOTTOM
Gloucestershire Royal	Chesterfield & North	78%
City Hospital Sunderland	Derbyshire Royal	78%
Heatherwood & Westham park hospitals	Pilgrim Health	81%
East Gloucestershire	Manchester Children's Hospitals	81%
Christie Hospital	Dartford & Gravesham	82%
Eastbourne Hospitals	Crawley & Horsham	84%
Poole Hospital	Ashford Hospital	85%
Muddersfield	Lincoln & Louth	85%
Chelsea & Westminster	Forest Healthcare	86%
Healthcare	Cose Farm Hospitals	87%
Lancaster Acute Hospitals	Isle of Wight Healthcare	87%

There were many other NHS trusts that performed well, but were not included in this table. *\*Only Trust without a significantly worse performance.*

"The tables are useful for local organisations to look at

Leading article,  
Review page 3

**APR 29.5%**

100



BY DAVID LISTER  
New York Editor

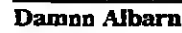
Lord Lloyd-Webber's assault on pop chart and record com-

### Scary Spice – Mel Brown

The likely Christmas number one. 'Goodbye' hasn't been released yet, but was 're-released' to Radio One some weeks ago, so listeners, and record buyers, will know it well.



Number two. Record company assured it a clear run, Lord Lloyd-Webber says, by cutting the previous single's price to make it ineligible for the chart.



The single that gave them a number one in their battle with Oasis was an example of a 'two for one' offer. So, in this case, the true price was half price.



A fan of Radio 2 DJ Sarah Kennedy heard the US single in the Cayman Islands and sent it to her as a tribute. She played it – and it went to No 21.

"This and many other cynical decisions have made the UK Top Forty little more than a guide to the most successful record company marketing departments, most of whom record singles as nothing more than trailers for albums."

The most common manipu-

...and the

But Eugene Beer, a former record plugger to national radio, says: "Andrew, I loved

The retailers disagree. A spokesman for HMV said: "Peo-

ple get very sentimental about the charts. But in fact they have never been more accurate. Yes, marketing techniques are taken to the ultimate level but we now have a price ruling which stops singles being released for absurdly low prices and distorting the charts."

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# Dozens die in Algerian massacre

UNKNOWN ATTACKERS massacred 42 people in a village west of Algiers during Tuesday night, raising fears of a new wave of barbarities in the civil war that has ravaged Algeria for more than six years.

The killings, at Tadjena in Chlef province, were blamed by the government on Islamic fundamentalist guerrillas and bring the death toll from such attacks since the start of the month to more than 100. As in many previous such incidents, most of their victims had their throats slit.

In another gruesome development, workers excavating two mass graves near the capital yesterday unearthed 11 more bodies, bringing to 46 the number of corpses uncovered over the past two weeks.

*El Watan*, a newspaper believed to be well informed on security matters, reported that the total of those buried in wells in an orange grove south of Algiers, could rise to more than 200. That figure pales beside the 3,000 civilians who have disappeared without trace during the past six years.

Although no one claimed responsibility last night for the lat-

est massacre west of Algiers, the finger of suspicion inevitably pointed to the mysterious Islamic Armed Group (GIA). This body is believed to be behind the bulk of the atrocities since October 1997, when a ceasefire was declared by the military arm of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the political movement that was poised to win the general election cancelled in 1992.

Since then the FIS has condemned the outrages against the civilian population, many of them apparently directed against its sympathisers, in retaliation for their abandonment of the armed struggle. But the picture has been clouded by witness accounts and statements by former policemen who have fled abroad, pointing towards collusion between the security forces and the killers.

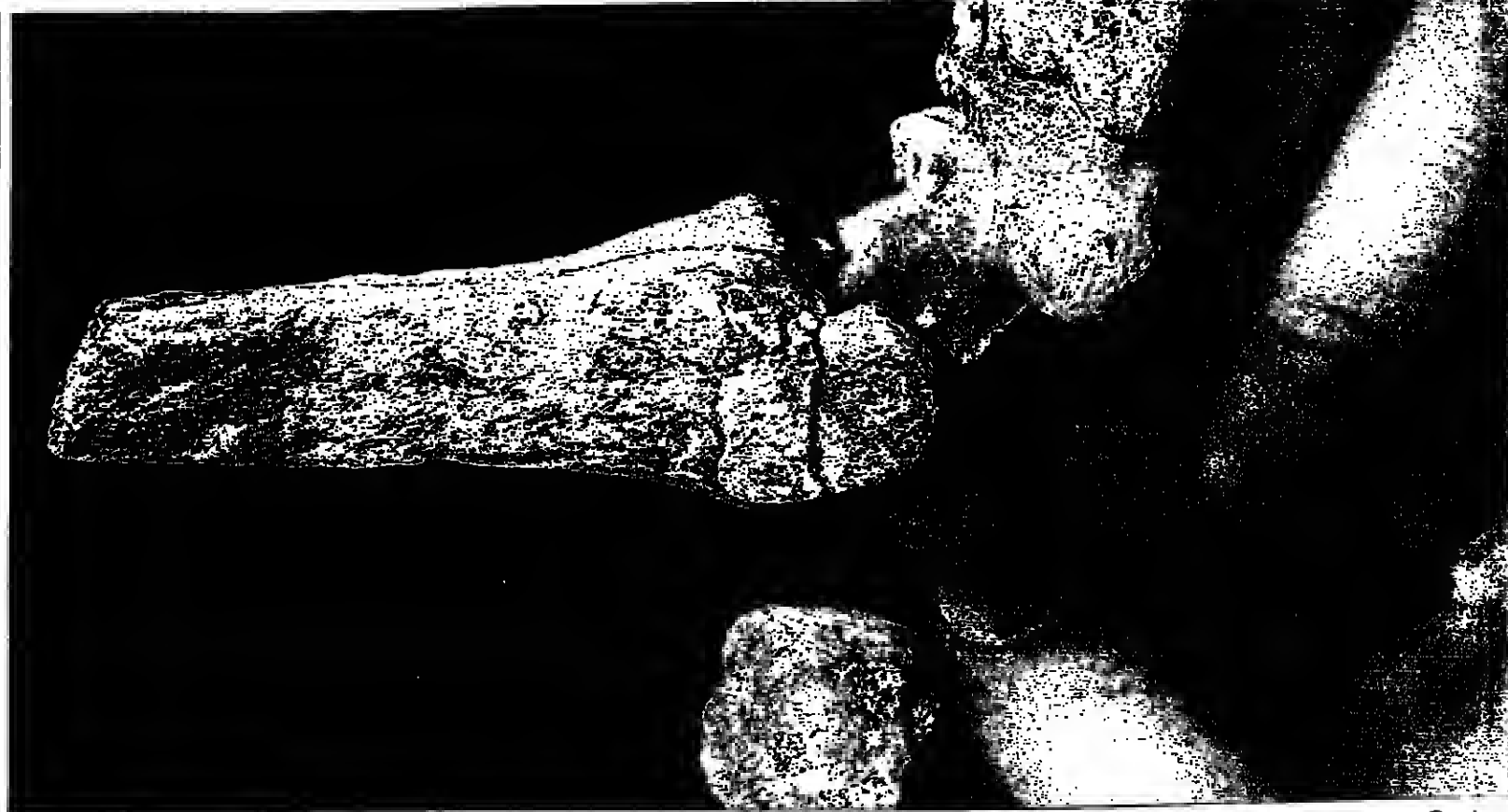
During several of the worst massacres last year, the police and army were said to have stood by without intervening to help civilians or make arrests. On some occasions, the attackers were seemingly per-

mitted to move unmolested through zones controlled by the military.

Since April, the violence had been taking on a new pattern, shifting away from set-piece slaughter to smaller attacks such as bombings of markets and random highway hold-ups. An emboldened government, meanwhile, has been declaring its offensive against the rebels was starting to yield results, and that an end to a conflict that has claimed 70,000 lives since 1992 was at last in sight.

Those claims must now be in doubt, as the country prepares with trepidation for the start, on 20 December, of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, which the Islamic insurgents consider an especially suitable period for their terror attacks.

A repeat of the bloody Ramadan of 12 months ago would cast a long shadow ahead of the presidential elections scheduled for next April, in which the incumbent, Liamine Zeroual, will not stand. The authorities had been counting on the election as the moment the country would start to place its woes behind it. That seems an increasingly unlikely prospect.



Palaeontologist Ron Clarke holding the 3 million-year-old Australopithecus bones, which were discovered in a South African cave Reuters

## Oldest ape-man skeleton is found

BY STEVE CONNOR  
Science Editor

AN ALMOST complete skeleton of an early 'human ancestor' found in a cave in South Africa promises to shed light on one of the most enigmatic periods in the history of Man.

Scientists estimate the age of the skeleton to be between 3.22 million and 3.6 million years old and said it belongs to a creature who stood about 4ft tall and who walked upright.

Palaeontologists from the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg found the skeleton in a cave in Sterkfontein, a for-

mer lime quarry that has yielded some of the most important fossil finds in South Africa. The hominid belongs to the group of early human ancestors known as the Australopithecines. It is the oldest and most complete fossil of its kind and affirms Africa as the cradle of mankind.

Philip Tobias, a professor emeritus at the university who has been in charge of the site's excavation for the past 30

years, said yesterday that the details of the hominid's anatomy are quite stunning.

"The heel of the foot is human-like and is suitable for walking on two legs. The big toe is more like that of a chimp, more like a thumb, so that the foot could grasp," he said.

"The canine teeth are small like a human's and not the elongated fangs of chimps and gorillas. It has a delicately constructed face with a protruding upper jaw and a retreating chin."

Ron Clarke, the palaeontologist at Witwatersrand who made the discovery with his two colleagues, Stephen Motsumi and Nkwane Molefe, said the skeleton was older and more complete than the famous "Lucy", an Australopithecine found in 1974 in East Africa.

Professor Tobias said the hominid probably fell down a shaft into the cave.

The skeleton is still embedded in the rock but scientists have revealed enough of the fossil to realise that it is "prob-

ably the most momentous find ever made in Africa", Professor Tobias said.

Dr Clarke found four foot-bones belonging to the skeleton in 1994 and this led him to search the cave for the rest of the skeleton. "It was like searching for a needle in a haystack," Professor Tobias said.

Chris Stringer, head of human origins at the Natural History Museum in London, said: "We need to get it completely out of the ground to assess its value."

## Suharto quizzed by court

BY DIARMID O'SULLIVAN  
in Jakarta

AFTER MONTHS of public pressure and student protests, the Indonesian government has finally called in former president Suharto for questioning over allegations that he enriched himself and his family during 32 years in power.

Suharto emerged on to the steps of the public prosecutor's office yesterday to tell a crowd: "As a good citizen, I came because no one is above the law." The former general, ousted from power in May, was questioned for more than three hours.

Suharto, 77, had to answer

questions about massive tax perks given to a car manufacturing company run by his son, Bambang Trihatmoko. The questions also touched on the possible misuse of hundreds of millions of charity dollars, and on land purchases made by Suharto and his family.

Suharto says he has only the money he saved from his presidential salary. Investigators have found about £1.5m in local bank accounts, as well as large

tracts of land in his name, and his six children are shareholders in many companies. Critics estimate his wealth at \$4bn.

The prosecutor must decide if there is enough evidence to charge Suharto. The issue is as much political as legal; one of Suharto's advisers hinted last week that the former president could dish the dirt on his protégés in the government, who include his successor B.J. Habibie.

"If Suharto does go to court, it could drag down the government," said one of Suharto's advisers, Yohanes Jacob.

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	£25,000 to £49,999	7.20	6.55	5.24
	£10,000 to £24,999	6.80	6.00	4.60
	£5,000 to £9,999	6.25	5.75	4.60
60 DAY ACCOUNT (Annual Interest Rates)	£50,000 and over	5.50	5.00	4.00
	£25,000 to £49,999	6.00	5.50	4.40
	£10,000 to £24,999	5.75	5.25	4.20
	£5,000 to £9,999	5.00	4.50	3.60
	£2,000 to £4,999	4.75	4.25	3.40
TESSA	with Annual Interest	7.25	7.00	5.60
BRANCH INSTANT	with Annual Interest	6.75	5.26	4.21
CLASSIC GOLD (Annual Interest Rates)	£50,000 and over	4.80	4.30	3.44
	£25,000 to £49,999	4.55	4.00	3.20
	£10,000 to £24,999	4.15	3.60	2.88
	£5,000 to £9,999	3.65	3.10	2.48
	£500 to £4,999	3.10	2.55	2.04
MONEY BOX ACCOUNT (Annual Interest Rates)	£5 to £499	1.55	2.00	1.60
	£500 and over	7.00	6.50	5.20
	£5 to £499	6.75	6.25	5.00
	£25,000 and over	4.15	3.65	2.92
	£25,000 to £49,999	3.70	3.20	2.56
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	£5 to £499	1.55	2.00	1.60
	£50,000 and over	7.35	6.85	5.48
INSTANT ACCOUNT (Annual Interest Rates)	£25,000 to £49,999	6.65	6.35	5.08
	£10,000 to £24,999	6.55	6.05	4.84
	£5,000 to £9,999	6.35	5.85	4.68
	£2,000 to £4,999	6.05	5.55	4.44
	£50,000 and over	7.50	7.00	5.60
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	£5,000 to £9,999	7.25	6.75	5.40
	£2,000 to £4,999	6.75	6.25	5.00
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سكنا من الامم



# Republican takes the stand against impeachment

IN THEIR last-ditch effort to save President Bill Clinton from impeachment, the White House yesterday fielded five former prosecutors to argue that the evidence against Mr Clinton was insufficient to support a conviction for perjury, let alone impeachment.

By MARY DEJEVSKY in Washington

Mr Weld's appearance was a crucial element in the White House strategy of trying to sway so-called "moderate" Republicans in the House of Representatives whose votes could determine Mr Clinton's fate.

While the judiciary committee is polarised along party lines and a vote for impeachment is taken for granted here, the division in the full House is more fluid, with up to 40 Republicans regarded as moderates in search of a reason not to vote for impeachment.

Yesterday, Mr Weld—who resigned as governor last year to focus on an ill-fated attempt to become ambassador to Mexico and later returned to his law practice—set out a five-point compromise designed to satisfy calls for the President to be punished without subjecting him to a trial in the Senate.

In order to "preserve the dignity of the country", Mr Weld said, "the most appropriate result is something other than removing this person from his office". But that dignity also required more than a vote of censure. He proposed in addition a written report on Mr Clinton's conduct in the Monica Lewinsky affair, a written admission of wrongdoing by the President, a fine, and a decision to leave open the possibility of prosecution once Mr Clinton leaves office.

Mr Weld's suggested "deal" coincided with statements by two other prominent Republicans, both New Yorkers—the recently defeated senator Alfonse d'Amato and the Representative Arno Houghton—rejecting the impeachment option.

Mr Houghton drew on his industrial experience to argue in *The New York Times* for a punishment to fit the crime and said he would vote for a "strong rebuke", but not to remove the President from office.

There was widespread praise, even from diehard Republicans on the committee, yesterday for the skill with which the White House had defended the President's cause, both in yesterday's discussion of prosecution practice and the previous day's panels on perjury and Watergate.

# Clinton visit triggers a new 'intifada'

ON A WARM winter evening 11 years ago the Palestinian intifada began in Gaza when an Israeli truck hit a car, killing four Palestinian labourers. More than any other event it was the intifada that ended the Israeli occupation and turned Gaza and the Palestinian towns of the West Bank into autonomous Palestinian enclaves ruled by Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority.

By PATRICK COCKBURN in Gaza

Palestinians celebrated the anniversary of the uprising of 1987 yesterday. Rioting spread across the West Bank, leaving one Palestinian dead and at least 80 wounded. As bylaws leading to Israeli settlements were closed by Palestinian stone throwers, Israeli officials said the real boundaries of a future Palestinian state were being defined by where it was safe for Israelis to travel and not by diplomatic agreement.

Mr Arafat was in jubilant mood. Speaking in Hebron, he said: "They used to say I was dreaming when I said we will all pray in Jerusalem. We say that day is near." It is a moment of triumph for the Palestinian leader.

Next Monday the US President, Bill Clinton, arrives in Gaza to address members of the Palestinian National Council, all of whom belong to organisations previously denounced as "terrorists". His visit brings America close to de facto recognition of a Palestinian state.

"In the last two months Clinton has spent more time with Arafat than with any other world leader," says one European diplomat. "Once he has crossed the bridge by going to Gaza, anyone else can do it. It will be difficult for the Americans to demonise the Palestinians as they did in the past."

In Gaza, people have a more practical view of the possible benefits of President Clinton's visit. Khalil Habib is a former flower exporter specialising in long-stemmed carnations, which are easy to grow in Gaza. His problem is that the enclave is sealed off from the outside world and all his flowers have to go through Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv on their way to the Netherlands.

"Once they kept my flowers at the airport for security checks for two days," recalls Mr Habib. "They were all ruined. The importer in Holland re-

fused to accept them. He told me, 'I can't deal with you because of your political situation. Come back when you have an independent state.'"

Mr Habib stopped exporting flowers in 1996. Now he wonders if the new Gaza airport, where President Clinton is to land, will enable him to get back into business. He notes pessimistically that security at the airport is still in the hands of the Israelis.



A wounded Palestinian is rescued by stone-throwers during a clash with Israeli troops on the West Bank yesterday. Reuters

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# Iraq bars UN team from party offices

IRAQ BLOCKED a surprise visit yesterday by United Nations weapons inspectors at a site identified as the headquarters of President Saddam Hussein's ruling Ba'ath Party, rekindling fears that Britain and the United States may yet be forced to mount a military strike against the country.

Richard Butler, chief of Unscop, the UN Special Commission responsible for rooting out all Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, described the intervention by Iraqi officials as "very serious". The Clinton administration appeared to be reacting cautiously to the incident, however.

After suspending co-operation with Unscop at the end of October, Iraq reversed its stance on 14 November just as the US and Britain were on the brink of launching military action. A bombing campaign was called off when Iraq promised to grant UN inspectors unfettered access to all sites.

A strike against Iraq could still be ordered at any moment. Fresh troops and hardware, rapidly assembled by Washington and London in the run-up to the November confrontation, still remain in the Gulf. An official confirmed yesterday that the US remains "poised to act".

Mr Butler is due to report to the UN Security Council next week on the extent of Iraq's compliance with its latest promises and all relevant UN resolutions. Sanctions imposed on Iraq when it launched its 1990 invasion of Kuwait will only be lifted once Unscop has certified that the country is free of all armaments of mass destruction, including nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

Mr Butler served notice on Monday that his inspectors were starting a new phase of their work and would be proceeding immediately with surprise inspections of sites.

BY DAVID USBORNE  
in New York

According to the official Iraqi news agency, members of a UN inspection team attempted to enter the Ba'ath Party headquarters yesterday morning. Officials in the building asked to see a list of the items the inspectors expected to find. When they said they had no such list, the inspectors withdrew.

The news agency was quoting Hussam Mohammad Amin, who is in charge of liaison between the inspectors and the



Richard Butler: Iraqi intervention 'very serious'

Iraqi government. Mr Amin accused Unscop of deliberately attempting to stir up a new confrontation. "It appears that such provocative and astonishing methods practised by elements of the Special Commission's inspection teams clearly aim to manufacture crises and problems," he said.

There were signs of sympathy with the Iraqi position from within the circle of Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General. Some daylight has been visible for months between the positions of Britain and the US on the handling of Iraq, and the Secretary-General, who favours a swift end to UN sanctions against Iraq.

Speaking to a meeting of the Gulf Co-operation Council in Abu Dhabi, Lakhdar Brahimi, a senior aide to the Secretary-General, said "unannounced inspections have been going well". He then added that an "unannounced inspection at Ba'ath Party headquarters was a bit provocative".

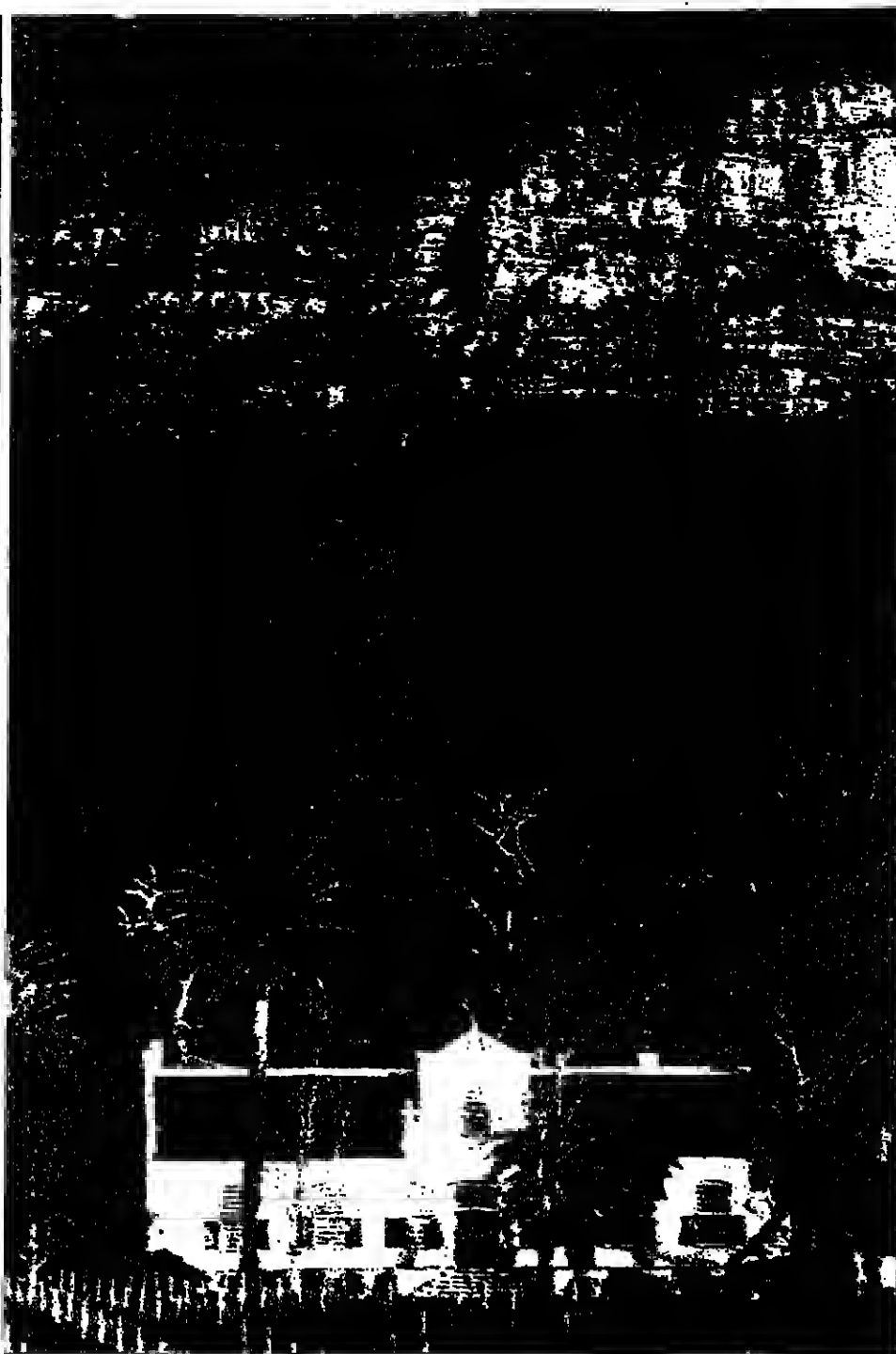
Mr Butler, however, said yesterday that he was clear that Iraq had illegally stood in the way of the inspectors. "Iraq claims that this [inspection] was illegitimate, against the law - that is, the resolutions of the Security Council," he said. "So we were blocked and that is very serious."

In Washington, David Leavy, a spokesman for the National Security Council, said: "We expect full co-operation by the Iraqis. If Unscop cannot do its job effectively, we remain poised to act."

Iraq has balked at requests from Unscop for several sets of documents that inspectors believe could shed light on its weapons programmes dating back to the Iran-Iraq war. While the dispute over documents sounded alarm bells in Washington and London, that alone did not seem grave enough to re-ignite enthusiasm for a military attack.

Mr Butler's assessment on the progress of his inspections, which he will give to the Security Council next week, should determine where policy on Iraq goes next. The council has agreed to launch a complete review of the sanctions against Iraq and its compliance with UN resolutions as soon as Mr Butler deems the inspections are on track again.

Barring a declaration from Mr Butler that Iraq is blatantly impeding his work, there seems little enthusiasm even in Washington for military strikes as Christmas approaches and as Muslims celebrate the holy month of Ramadan.



Cape vintners say "port" and "sherry" are widely used terms Shawn Benjamin/Link

## Storm over 'port' delays trade deal

A DISPUTE over South Africa's right to sell its fortified wines at home as "port" and "sherry" is threatening a ground-breaking trade deal with the European Union.

The Europeans are demanding that South African vintners stop using the names "sherry" and "port" for their fortified wines, saying that only Spain can produce wines called sherry and only the Portuguese city of Oporto can label its fortified wine as port.

After a direct appeal from the South African President, Nelson Mandela, fell on deaf ears at a meeting of foreign ministers on Monday, the issue will now go to the Vienna summit of EU heads of government this weekend.

The wrangle is embarrassing to the European Commission as a deal was supposed to have been reached at the Cardiff summit at the end of Britain's presidency of the EU in June.

Instead, when President Mandela arrived he was promised an agreement by autumn, a deadline now extended to Christmas. In his plea to EU heads of government, Mr Mandela argued: "South Africa's economic success is by no means guaranteed and requires an immense effort."

After four years of talks the outline of a deal to phase out duties on about 90 per cent of EU-South Africa trade, worth \$19bn (£11.5bn) a year, was struck last month at talks in Pretoria.

BY STEPHEN CASTLE  
in Brussels

South Africa claims the terms port and sherry have been in wide use for 300 years, but has agreed to a compromise under which it would stop using them on exports to Europe and phase them out over five to 10 years in other foreign markets.

But South Africa insists it must be allowed to continue marketing fortified wines as port and sherry at home and in neighbouring nations with which it has trade agreements.

"For the ordinary population the agreement cannot be concluded by us surrendering the household names in southern Africa of our own port and sherry," Mr Mandela wrote in his appeal.

The row is particularly embarrassing because of the small scale of trade involved. Sales of South African "port" and "sherry" are worth only about 750m rand (£75m), of which 13 per cent comes from exports.

An EU official said last week: "We are talking about one of the new democracies. They have agreed to phase out the terms for Europe. Are we going to resist for such a petty reason?"

But others say the Europeans have compromised enough and that the entire package is preferential for South Africa. Mr Mandela was banking on public sympathy for South Africa to extract another concession, a diplomat argued.

## Le Pen's rival throws down gauntlet

THE FAR-RIGHT National Front moved a step closer to disintegration yesterday when Bruno Mégret, the second force in the party, openly challenged the authority of the president, Jean-Marie Le Pen, for the first time.

Mr Mégret backed a campaign for an emergency congress of NF members early next year, to resolve the increasingly vicious battle for power between the two men.

BY JOHN LICHFIELD  
in Paris

The proposal has already been rejected by Mr Le Pen. But Mr Mégret said he had more than enough support, under the party's rules, to impose a congress against Mr Le Pen's will.

Other NF officials and members have been summarily thrown out of the party in recent days for campaigning for a conference. Mr Le Pen must now

decide whether he is strong enough to risk outright civil war in the party - even a permanent split - by ejecting Mr Mégret.

Mr Le Pen's youngest daughter, Marine, yesterday challenged Mr Mégret to disavow the calls for a congress or quit the NF. Later, at a packed press conference in a Paris hotel it appears he no longer feels welcome at party headquarters, Mr Mégret, 49, said he would "never leave the Na-

tional Front, neither by resigning, nor by being excluded".

Although he added that he was opposed to a "scission" of the party, this amounted to a threat to take his supporters into a separate, extreme nationalist movement if ejected by Mr Le Pen.

Asked about Marine Le Pen's intervention, Mr Mégret said contemptuously: "I have asked my own children not to get involved in this affair." Both Mr Mégret's children are infants.

The dispute between the two men, long submerged, has burst into the open in recent weeks with a series of dismissals of party workers and exclusions of officials close to Mr Mégret.

Under the party's rules, 20 per cent of the 50,000 NF members can demand an "extraordinary congress". Mr Mégret said yesterday the plan had the support of 53 out of 85 local parties and 11 out of 22 regional bodies.

## Leaning Tower given a steel 'corset'

THE NEXT stage in an operation to ensure that Pisa's Leaning Tower doesn't lean too far begins today. The delicate operation involves lacing steel cables to a wire "corset", which has been fixed around the tower at the height of the second loggia.

BY FRANCES KENNEDY  
in Rome

The twin steel cables will then be tied to metal pylons about 100 yards away, on the north side of the piazza, to act as a brace against any further tilt. A system of counterweights

will ensure the cables linked to the tower remain taut.

"The braces are not intended to actively straighten the tower but to ensure its safety," said the site manager, Paolo Heiniger.

"If the lean seems to be increasing, or if there is a sudden

movement, we could tighten the cables to hold it in place."

Concern has been expressed that cables crossing the Camp del Miracoli in front of the tower will be an eyesore but the project's defenders say that is a small price to pay to save one of Europe's biggest tourist attractions.

### IN BRIEF

#### Suicide doctor to stand trial

DR JACK KEVORKIAN was ordered to stand trial on murder and assisted suicide charges over a death by injection that was videotaped and shown on the US television programme 60 Minutes. "The intent to kill was premeditated," a district judge said at a preliminary hearing in Waterford, Michigan.

#### Srebrenica investigation

The Dutch parliament is to launch its own investigation into the role of Dutch peacekeepers in the UN "safe area" of Srebrenica in 1995. Dutch peacekeepers were assigned to protect the enclave in north-east Bosnia, but when the Bosnian Serb Army overran it in July 1995 the Dutch looked on as Serbs picked out Muslim men. Up to 8,000 are still reported missing.

#### McCondom sandwich

A WOMAN who says she bit into a condom inside a McDonald's chicken sandwich in Wisconsin has filed a lawsuit. "She was horrified," Rick Pendergast, lawyer for Veronica Minor, said. "She went in the bathroom and threw up." A manager at the Menomonee McDonald's called police to escort the woman out of the restaurant.

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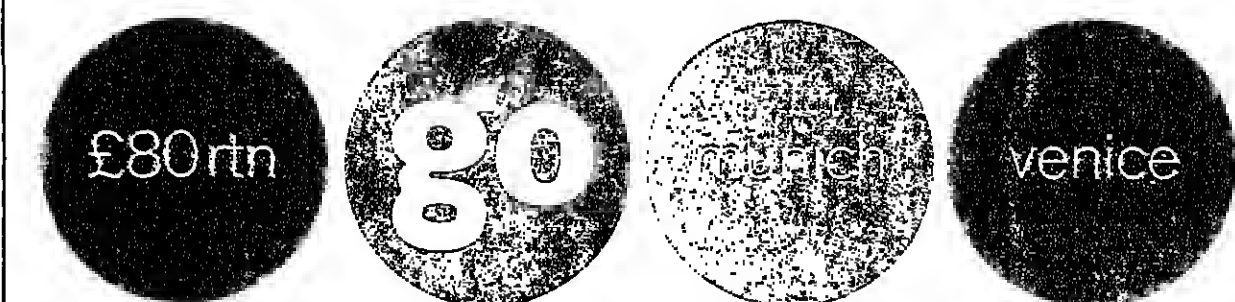
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# Divided they stand, separated by eternal hatred and suspicion

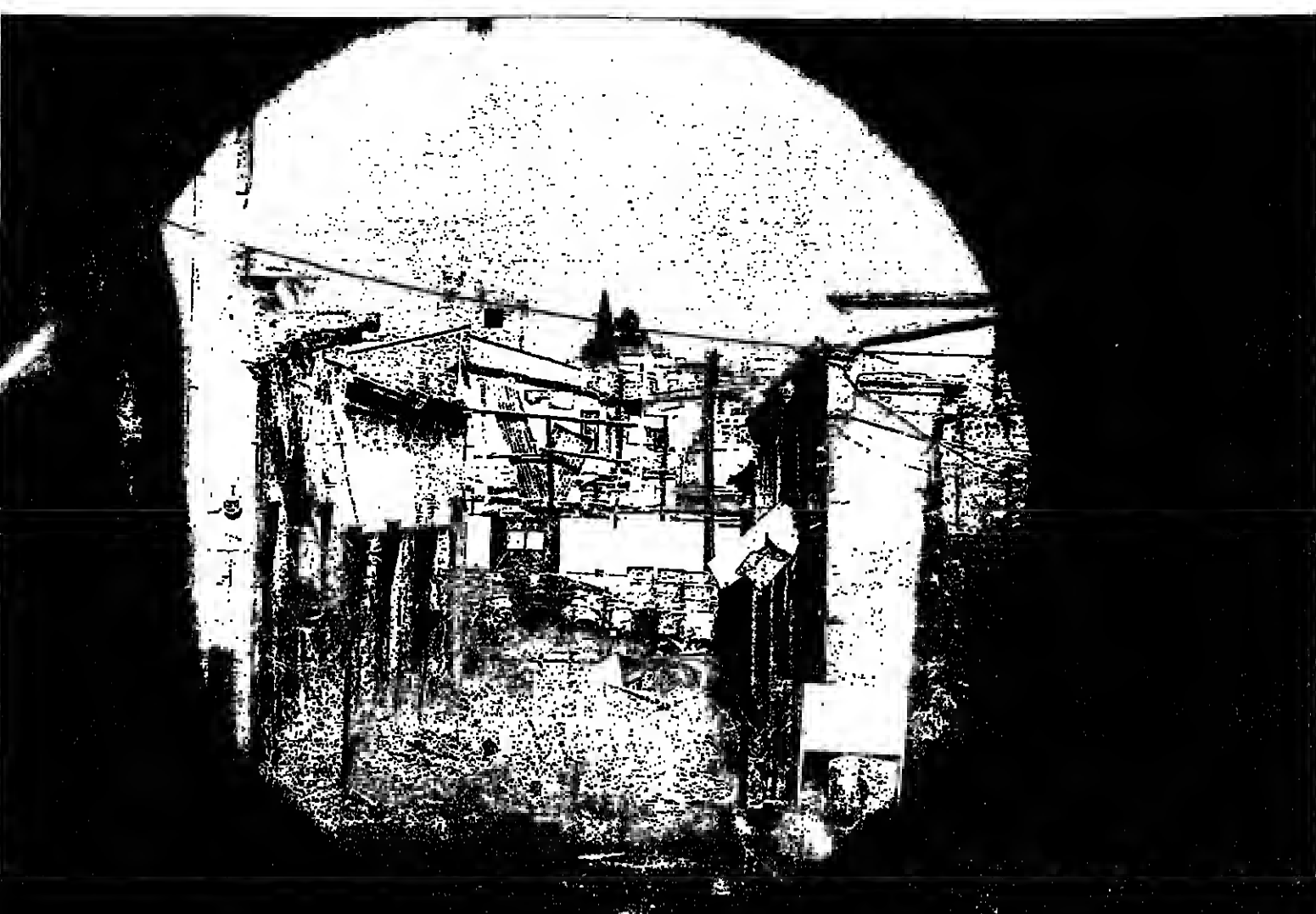
FRONT LINE  
NICOSIA

"TIGER" STALKS the bottom of Ledra Street. Round the long, broken sewers and garbage and ricochet-lashed houses and mined streets, he prowls the undergrowth, a brown-and-grey presence amid the weeds. George, a Greek Cypriot national guard, watches the cat without emotion. "Tiger takes food from the Turkish soldiers," he says, nursing his rifle in his little sentry box. "Then he comes over here and takes food from us."

So pull down the Turkish and Greek flags. Clear the streets of mines. Forget "Greek murderers" and "Turkish barbarism". Call the United Nations. Get through to the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan. Here, after more than a quarter of a century, we have discovered a Cypriot who is at home on both sides of the Green Line, who relies on both Greek and Turk for his survival.

But alas, Loizos Theofanis' shop, coated in grime, windows broken, his peeling blue name still visible above the facade, will not reopen. Mr Loizos went back, with his daughter, to collect his belongings after the 1974 Turkish invasion but was shot dead on the overgrown pavement by a Turkish sniper. Nor will the owner of 35-37 Ledra Street be able to return. Artin Bohdjan is an Armenian name and the Turks allow no Armenians to return to their property behind or along the Green Line: they did, after all, commit genocide against one-and-a-half million Armenians in 1915.

The Greek Cypriots have installed a little museum at the bottom of Ledra Street with fading photographs of the 1974 Turkish invasion, largely cleansed of references to the suicidal Greek colonels' coup against Cypriot President Makarios, which prompted the Turkish military intervention. The damp little room is clearly modelled on the exhibition that once graced Berlin's Checkpoint Charlie.



Only a cat can ignore the Green Line, which has cut through Cyprus since the Turkish invasion in 1974

Behind the Turkish line there is another museum, in a villa where Greek Cypriots massacred the Turkish inhabitants. Visitors are encouraged to look at a small piece of brain matter that still adheres to the ceiling after more than a quarter of a century. Talk to John HadjiJoseph, Cypriot Catholic Maronite who runs his little estate agency 40 feet from the Turkish line, and he says the two sides may be united "in many years" in a shop in at Spyros Eleftheriades' shop - a mere 30 feet from the Turkish line - and he shrugs.

"It is up to the Americans the B-1's," he says. "America does. I want a war between Nato allies. And Britain first divided the two communities on the island in the 1950s. It was a British officer who drew the Green Line on a map in 1964 - with a green pencil."

Mr Eleftheriades - his name derives from the Greek word for freedom - is clutching his mobile phone, as symbolic of the "new" Greek Cyprus (per capita income £7,400) as George's rifle is of the old. Could he not just call up a Turkish Cypriot on the other side of the line if he wanted? "But I don't know anyone there," he replies. "And I don't speak Turkish." Indeed, only the Cypriot bank notes now carry their denomination in Turkish. The only transcommunal agreement is over the city's sewage; the treatment plant is on the Turkish side. "We send our shit to them," a Greek Cypriot journalist remarks.

So an uncomfortable, unutterable thought goes through my mind as I stroll these dark streets parallel to Tiger. The Turkish Cypriots want a confederation of Cyprus recognising two states, including their own self-declared statelet in the north, but no return of Greeks to homes in Kyrenia or Famagusta. The Greek Cypriots want a reunified island with the return of all

refugees. Or say they do. The problem is that they want the unity of their country - but not of its people.

"Turks are barbarians and we are civilised," a Greek carpenter tells me (his back wall only 15 feet from the Turkish line). Even the tourist magazines agree. The latest issue of the Greek Cypriot publication *Hermes*, available in posh tourist hotels, recalls Turkish "savagery" at the siege of Nicosia 400 years ago and the fate of the Greek Cypriot governor of Famagusta in 1571. "Finally he was flayed alive, his skin stuffed and paraded about on donkey-back... before it was sent to Constantinople." What does all this say about the Greek Cypriots?

If this is their history lesson, what is their future to be? If they want the unity of their island, why do they no longer learn Turkish? Why, if the Turks are so keen on a confederated state, don't they encourage their children to appreciate Greek culture? For years after the 1974 invasion, the Cyprus telecommunications authority continued to print the disconnected numbers of thousands of Greeks in the Turkish-occupied north. No longer. Turks now live in those homes, just as Greeks now live in Turkish homes in the south.

True, the violent division gave the Turkish Cypriots 37 per cent of the island when their population might only entitle them to 28 per cent. But equally true, half the 120,000 Turkish Cypriots appear to have emigrated from their bankrupt statelet since 1974 and latest European Union statistics suggest 111,000 of the inhabitants of the north are now settlers from the Turkish mainland. "I not from Cyprus - I from Turkey," a closely shaven, smiling teenager shouted down to me through the wire from behind Mr HadjiJoseph's shop, jabbing his forefinger into his chest.

As for the 650,000 Greek Cypriots, they have made an economic success out of their truncated island. President Glafkos Clerides still insists on his lunatic plan to install Russian S-300 missiles here. But it now turns out he never discussed his plans with the Greek government, which - with the EU and the Americans - would like the rockets dumped in Crete.

The Turks say they will destroy the missiles - and Turkish air force flying time to Cyprus is about three minutes, an odd thing for a former wartime RAF Bomber Command man such as Clerides to forget. And if the Turkish flag taunts the Greeks above the

## Albright plea to spare killer

By DAVID USBORNE  
in New York

THE GOVERNOR of Texas, George Bush, has come under unprecedented pressure to halt the execution scheduled for this evening of a Canadian national, Joseph Stanley Faulder. Among those asking at least for a delay in the dispatch of the 61-year-old convict is the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright.

There is no dispute over the guilt of Faulder, convicted of killing an elderly oil widow, Inez Phillips, in the Texas town of Palestine in 1975, by crushing her skull and then stabbing her with a kitchen knife. In two decades on Death Row, he has already had eight appointments with the executioner.

The dispute over his fate centres on the failure of Texas to grant the Canadian government proper consular access to the inmate, in violation of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. Indeed, Faulder had been on Death Row for 15 years before Canada was alerted to his predicament.

While similar arguments have erupted before about foreign nationals facing execution in the United States, it is rare for them to reach the level of foreign ministers. Lloyd Axworthy, the Canadian Foreign Minister, has appealed to Governor Bush to commute the sentence to life imprisonment.

In her own letter to the Governor, Ms Albright asked that a 30-day delay be granted to allow time for the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles to study the consular issue. She warned that unless the US complied with the Vienna Convention, it could not expect foreign governments to honour their obligation to grant access to Americans facing imprisonment abroad.

Opponents of the death penalty have, meanwhile, converged on Texas to demand the sparing of Faulder. At a press conference, the Canadian Association in the Defence of the Wrongly Convicted likened Texas, which expects to carry out four executions this week alone, to a "killing machine".

Robert Fisk

corset

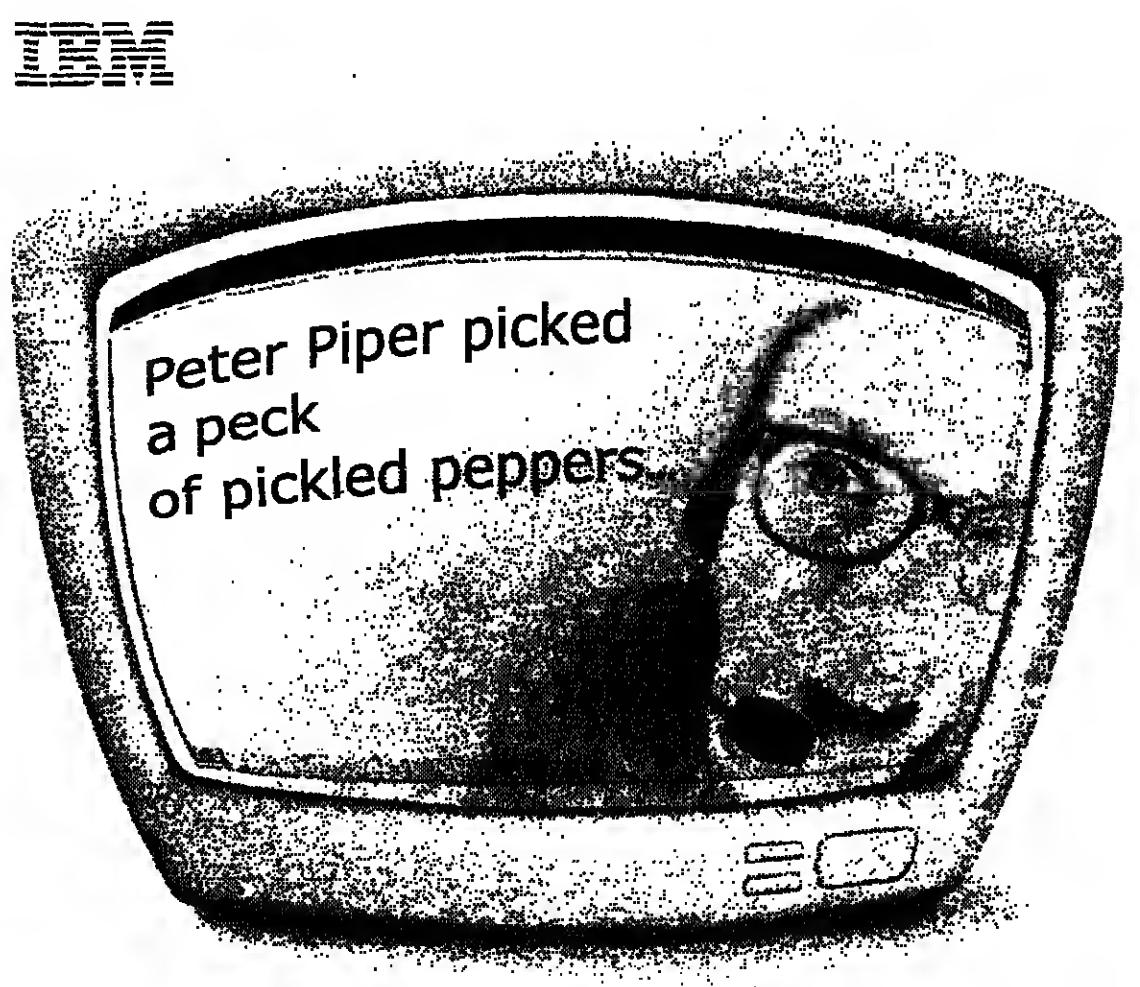
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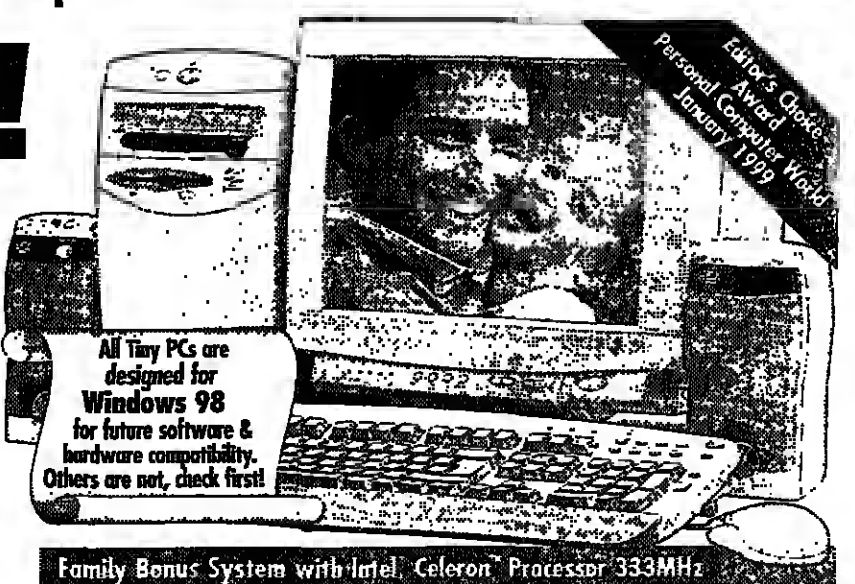
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## BRIEFING

## Soros warns on global recession

GEORGE SOROS, the international financier, yesterday warned that world recession was still a possibility if economic growth in Europe and the US slowed before there was a pick-up in Asia. Giving evidence to MPs on the Treasury Select Committee, Mr Soros also reiterated his concerns about world deflation. The billionaire financier said he was broadly in favour of the euro, but believed that there needed to be "political and fiscal adjustments" to ensure its success.

Mr Soros warned that sterling could be vulnerable to speculative attacks if the UK stayed out of monetary union. He cautioned the Government against announcing a target euro exchange rate for the pound. "It would give people like me a chance," he said.

## Smith &amp; Nephew to cut jobs



SMITH & NEPHEW, the healthcare product group, will cut 480 jobs and restructure management, it was announced yesterday. The company, which makes bio-engineered skin and keyhole surgical equipment, plans to make annual savings of £35m and raise margins by 3 per cent to 17 per cent, by restructuring itself into

three new business divisions - Orthopaedics, Endoscopy and Wound Management. "I am confident that the three-year goal will be achieved," said Chris O'Donnell, chief executive (pictured). Smith & Nephew shares rose 5 per cent to 169p.

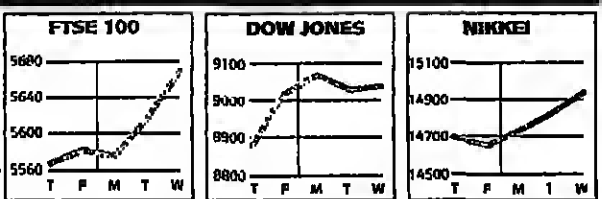
## Airbus included in TWA order

TRANS WORLD AIRLINES, the American carrier, yesterday confirmed it is splitting a \$3.9bn aircraft contract between Boeing and Airbus, with the European aircraft consortium getting the lion's share of the business. It is the first time TWA has placed an order with Airbus. The airline is buying 50 Boeing 717 jets for \$1.4bn with options for an extra 50. It has also ordered 75 Airbus A320s with an option for a further 75. The deal includes orders for the A318, Airbus's answer to the 717.

## Virgin signs £1bn train deal

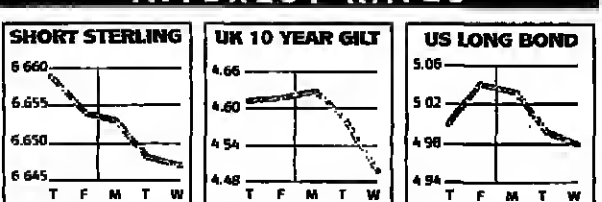
VIRGIN TRAIN GROUP, the rail operator, has signed a £1.06bn maintenance and supply deal with the Canadian manufacturer Bombardier and Anglo-American GL Rail Leasing to renew and maintain its Cross Country train fleet.

## STOCK MARKETS



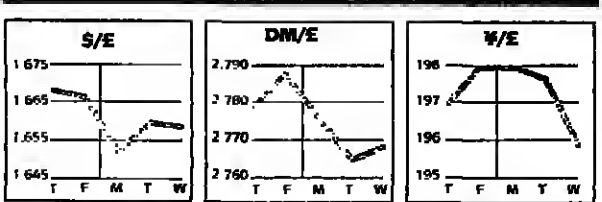
Index	Close	Change	% Chg	52 wk High	52 wk Low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5669.10	53.40	0.95	6183.00	4599.00	3.32
FTSE 250	4777.90	20.20	0.43	5971.00	4248.00	4.84
FTSE 350	2690.70	23.00	0.87	2969.10	2210.40	3.54
FTSE All Share	2586.42	20.85	0.81	2897.00	2144.00	3.90
FTSE Smallcap	2017.50	-5.30	-0.26	2193.00	1834.00	4.16
FTSE Biotech	1125.80	1.10	0.10	1517.00	1046.00	0.00
FTSE AIM	802.30	2.00	0.25	1146.00	761.00	0.00
FTSE EBITDA 100	936.33	2.93	0.31			
Dow Jones	9037.25	12.11	0.13	9380.00	7400.00	1.66
Nikkei	14931.90	123.70	0.84	17352.00	12787.00	0.98
Hang Seng	10361.29	10.21	0.10	11926.00	6544.00	3.01
Dax	4663.68	-35.66	-0.76	6217.00	3693.00	1.91

## INTEREST RATES



Index	3 months	6 months	1 year	2 year	5 year	10 year	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	6.50	-1.25	5.94	-1.93	4.50	-1.92	4.38	-1.94
US	5.24	-0.70	5.03	-1.09	4.57	-0.98	4.98	
Japan	0.47	-0.27	0.53	-0.19	1.25	-0.72	1.97	-0.98
Germany	3.40	-0.36	3.25	-0.84	3.62	-1.57	4.64	-1.31

## CURRENCIES



Index	Close	Change	% Chg	1 yr Ago	5 yr Ago	10 yr Ago	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6584	+0.011	1.6451				0.6078
D-Mark	2.7686	+0.002	2.7643				1.7987
Yen	195.88	-11.84	-215.84				130.58
E index	99.80	+0.00	100.10				106.70

## OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	9.50	0.07	17.43	GDP (115.40)	3.00	112.04	Dec.
Gold (\$)	293.69	0.25	282.75	RPI	164.50	3.10	159.55
Silver (\$)	4.82	0.04	5.38	Base Rates	6.75	7.25	Dec.

## TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.6115	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.11
Austria (schillings)	18.84	Netherlands (guilder)	3.0213
Belgium (francs)	55.41	New Zealand (\$)	3.0795
Canada (\$)	2.4935	Norway (krone)	12.19
Cyprus (pounds)	0.7927	Portugal (escudos)	272.93
Denmark (krone)	10.26	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0393
Finland (markka)	8.1763	Singapore (\$)	2.6157
France (francs)	8.9964	Spain (pesetas)	227.89
Germany (marks)	2.6913	South Africa (rand)	9.6233
Greece (drachma)	451.58	Sweden (krone)	13.10
Hong Kong (\$)	12.45	Switzerland (francs)	2.1999
Ireland (pounds)	1.0787	Thailand (bahts)	54.56
India (rupees)	63.43	Turkey (liras)	464992
Israel (shekels)	6.4164	USA (\$)	1.6189
Italy (lira)	2560		
Japan (yen)	193.00		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.0388		
Malta (lira)	0.8054		

Rates for information purposes only  
Source: Thomas Cook

# Zeneca/Astra merger will cost companies over £3.8bn

- All-share deal will create world's third-biggest drugs group
- Merger will mean 6,000 jobs cut, including 1,000 in the UK
- Speculation on a counter-bid pushes Zeneca shares up

THE £48bn merger between Zeneca and its Swedish rival Astra will cost the two pharmaceutical companies more than \$6bn (£3.8bn) over the next 10 years and will involve axing 6,000 jobs, including 1,000 in the UK.

News of the huge costs came as the two companies yesterday confirmed details of Europe's biggest merger, which will be an all-share deal, to form AstraZeneca, the world's third-largest drug group with sales of around £10bn. Zeneca will be the dominant partner with 53.5 per cent of the new company.

According to the merger documentation, AstraZeneca faces bills of around \$6bn over the next 10 years due to the cancellation of a US distribution contract between the Swedish group and the American giant Merck. Under the terms of the agreement, terminated in June, Astra would have to pay Merck \$740m in compensation if it was to merge with a rival. Merck would also receive \$950m over a longer period and \$3.5bn in 2008 to relinquish the rights to sell Astra's products in the US.

In addition to the Merck payment, the two companies said they would make a \$1.2bn merger provision in the first year to cover reorganisation costs. Around \$1bn would go to pay for 6,000 redundancies across the group's 55,000 workforce.

Sir David Barnes, Zeneca's chief executive, declined to say where the job losses would fall, but hinted that there were overlaps in the two companies' administrative and research staff. Fewer than 1,000 jobs would go in the UK, probably in Zeneca's pharmaceutical division headquarters near Manchester and in Astra's operations in Nottingham and Kings Langley.

Dr Tom McKillop, Zeneca's chief executive designate, is to become chief executive of the merged entity. Percy Barnevik, the chairman of Investor, the investment group of the Wallenberg family, will be non-executive chairman, while Sir David Barnes and his Astra counterpart Hakan Mogren will be joint executive deputy chairmen.

Dr McKillop said the two companies had a "perfect commercial and cultural fit". The merger pools together a number of high-sales drugs such as Losec, Astra's anti-ulcer block-

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

buster, Zeneca's Novaldex, an anti-cancer treatment, and Zestril, a hypertension medicine. AstraZeneca would be the market leader in anaesthetic drugs and the number two in tumour treatments, with leading positions in gastrointestinal and cardiovascular drugs.

The announcement triggered a sharp rise in Zeneca's shares, which ended the day £1.91 higher at £27.11 on mounting speculation of a counter-bid by Glaxo Wellcome or Smith-Kline Beecham, the other two UK drug giants.

However, industry insiders dampened the speculation, noting that SB and Glaxo would be unlikely to pay a premium to buy a medium-sized company with a thin drug pipeline such as Zeneca. They said that the UK companies would also be deterred by the political storm which would follow the inevitable job losses.

The reorganisation would yield annual savings of \$1.1bn a year with two thirds of the benefits set to come through two years after the completion of the merger. Sir David said he did not envisage any anti-trust problems and he expected the merger to be approved by the European and US authorities by the first half of next year. The two companies had been in merger talks since September and the deal was clinched last weekend at a country hotel in East Anglia, he added.

City analysts said that the deal made sense, given the two companies' complementary drug portfolios. However, they cautioned that the merger was largely a defensive move, driven by the desire to achieve critical mass to compete with world leaders such as Merck and Glaxo.

Both Zeneca and Astra face patent expiries on Zestril and Losec, their two blockbuster drugs, in 2001. They were also considered too small to drive through the huge research sales expenditure required to survive in the pharmaceutical market.

"Neither of them wanted to be swallowed up by a bigger rival. Now they are big enough to compete, even though they are slightly weak in the US," said Nick Woolf, an analyst with BancBoston Robertson Stephens.

Outlook, page 21  
Diary, page 25



The new top management at AstraZeneca: (left to right) Tom McKillop, Sir David Barnes and Percy Barnevik. Mr Barnevik, creator of the Swiss-Swedish ABB group, is regarded as Europe's top industrialist. Neville Elder

## Industrialist with a new vision of a big company

BY ROGER TRAPP

PERCY BARNEVIK, widely regarded as Europe's premier industrialist, has emerged as chairman of the combined AstraZeneca group. Though best known as the creator of the Swiss-Swedish industrial group ABB, Mr Barnevik has since last year been chairman of Investor, the investment vehicle for the Wallenbergs, Sweden's pre-eminent business family.

For more than a century, the holding company has amassed stakes in such organisations as ABB, Saab, Scandinavian Airlines System, Electrolux, Ericsson and Astra, which account for 43 per cent of the value of the Swedish stock market.

Investor also involves itself in managing businesses. At Astra, for instance, it is not just the most significant owner, with 10.2 per cent of the shares and 12.1 per cent of the voting rights, but Investor's deputy chairman, Bo Berggren, is also chairman of Astra.

Since taking over the reins of Investor from Peter Wallenberg, Mr Barnevik has been determined to improve performance through introducing a

three-step strategy known as the "Barnevik triple-jump". This involves, first, restructuring the business; second, changing the management; and, third, engineering a merger or disposal.

He is also keen to develop Investor as an "active investor". In keeping with the approach developed at ABB, which was largely his creation, he is rejuvenating boards by bringing in overseas directors and seeking to recruit "excellent people one level down, and many more women".

Even though Mr Barnevik is the first non-family member to chair the company, other Wallenbergs, including Peter's son, Jacob, and Jacob's cousin, Marcus, are involved in its running. But, while the Wallenberg family's tentacles reach most parts of Swedish business, Mr Barnevik's influence is more international. Though he is giving up his boardroom seat at Du Pont be-

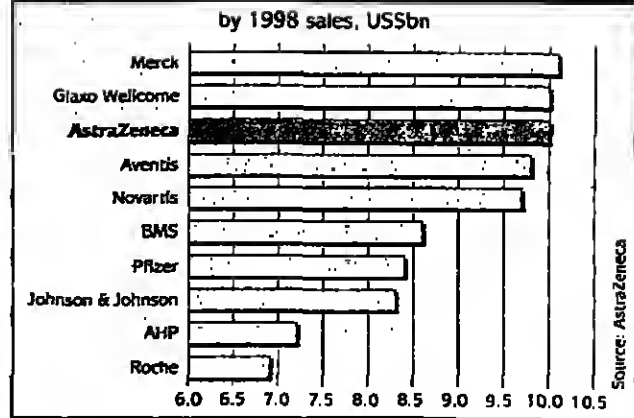
cause of possible conflicts with his new position, he remains a director of General Motors and chairman of ABB.

According to London Business School's Sumantra Ghoshal and his partner, Christopher Bartlett of Harvard, Mr Barnevik, who at 6ft 3in and with a distinguished goatee beard looks like a character from an Ibsen play, "has created a fundamentally different model of how a large company can be organised and managed". In place of the rigid financial controls associated with the typical corporation, he produced a philosophy based on the "three Ps" of purpose, processes and people.

He made ABB into a model of a company with a lean headquarters and decision-making devolved to business units. But keeping this organisation together apparently necessitated him spending much of his life on an aeroplane.

Even now that he has stepped back from a day-to-day role at ABB, he claims to have four headquarters - in Stockholm, Zurich, New York and London.

### THE TOP TEN DRUGS COMPANIES



## High street gloom raises rate-cut pressure

THERE WAS more bad news for Britain's hard-hit retail sector yesterday when both DFS Furniture and Courts, the rival furnishing operations, issued profit warnings blaming weakening consumer confidence.

The downbeat statements increase the pressure on the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee to opt for a significant cut in interest rates today when it completes its monthly meeting.

Shares in DFS Furniture crashed to an all-time low after

BY NIGEL COPE AND DIANE COYLE

a gloomy update on current trading at the group's annual meeting.

Sir Graham Kirkham, DFS chairman, said same-store sales are running at 9 per cent below this time last year. The statement, which pushed DFS shares 8p lower to 157.5p, forced analysts to cut their full-year profit forecasts from £3.6m to £2.7m.

Separately, Courts reported

a 37 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to \$8.1m in the first half. The company blamed weak markets in the UK and overseas and said bookings in the second half were well down on last year. Consequently the company said full-year profits will be below last year's record level of £32.3m. Courts plans to slow down its expansion programme to reflect the slowdown.

There was more upbeat news from Kingfisher, the Woolworths and B&Q retail group. Shares in the company

soared by 11 per cent after it reported a 5.1 per cent increase in comparable store sales in the 13 weeks to 31 October. However, the group said that growth had slowed since the end of the quarter.

Kingfisher's largest businesses, B&Q, Woolworths and Darty, the French electrical retailer, all achieved like-for-like sales growth of around 6 to 7 per cent in the period. Comet was the only weak spot, with a 1.6 per cent drop in same store sales. Separately Wickes, the DIY

retailer, reported a solid underlying sales increase of 3.9 per cent. Heal's, the upmarket furniture stores group, also impressed with a doubling of full-year profits to £3m and a statement that current trading is "satisfactory".

As pressure grows on the MPC to cut interest rates today, separate delegations from union members and from the North-east lobbied the Bank of England yesterday. Roger Lyons, general secretary of the MSF union, handed in a giant

Christmas card and a giftwrapped petition bearing more than 10,000 signatures. The MSF delegation sang to the tune of Jingle Bells: "Eddie George, Eddie George, cut the interest rate. Save our jobs in industry before it is too late."

Bill Midgeley, president of the North-east Chamber of Commerce, said: "It is unreasonable to expect one area of the country to take the brunt of recent job losses. What the North-east needs now is support from the Monetary Policy Committee."

### AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

## LONDON

THE PROPOSED \$48bn Zeneca/Astra drugs merger and confident expectations that base rate will be lowered significantly today pushed blue chips higher in busy trading, although best levels were not held. Footsie, at one time up 76 points, closed with a 58.4 gain at 5,669.1. Mid cap shares were also firm but the smaller caps gave ground. Zeneca jumped 191p to 27.11p in heavy trading but Kingfisher, the retail chain, led blue chips with a 61p gain to 604p following its trading statement. Derek Pain, page 25

## NEW YORK

THE Dow Jones Industrial Average was trading down 46 points, or 0.5 per cent, at lunchtime yesterday, with investors nervous ahead of a key vote in Brazil on the government's proposed austerity plan. The dollar slipped almost a yen after the Japanese finance minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, told a parliamentary committee that the US "felt comfortable" with the dollar "at around 110 or 120 yen". Yesterday, the dollar was trading at around 118 yen.

## TOKYO

STOCKS rallied towards the end of yesterday, in anticipation of Friday's settlement of futures and options. By the close, the Nikkei had climbed nearly one per cent to 14,931, with Toyota and Honda contributing most to the late afternoon surge. Food, retail and pharmaceuticals companies made gains throughout the day, as investors continue to seek out stocks capable of performing steadily in Japan's sustained recession.

## HONG KONG

LACK of direction, and the start of the year end lull, saw Hong Kong shares tread water yesterday. In a thin day's trading, the Hang Seng Index closed up 0.1 per cent at 10,361. Chinese stocks gained after the publication of a report showing an 11 per cent rise in output in China, the fastest growth since January. The state-owned Beijing Datang Power gained 8.4 per cent, as it announced a boost in revenues.

## FRANKFURT

GERMAN SHARES slipped back slightly, as the weakness of the dollar weighed on sentiment. The DAX benchmark index lost 0.7 per cent in quiet trading. "I don't think the market will do too much until about the middle of January, in part due to the introduction of the euro," said one trader. Allianz dropped another 2.5 per cent, extending 3-day losses to nearly 6 per cent, as Deutsche Bank increased the size of its Allianz convertible bond issue by 500 m to 1.8bn euros.



# Nice, but what's in it for shareholders?

IF EVER there were a merger born of weakness, AstraZeneca is it. Both are medium-sized players in an industry increasingly dominated by giants. Bringing them together will give the combined whole a better chance of competing in drug discovery, but it is not clear that merging an aging Volvo with a run of the mill rover is going to create the required Ferrari.

Furthermore, both companies face a severe patent expiry problem early in the next century. Perhaps as much as 60 per cent of present sales are affected. Obviously there are replacement products coming through to help fill the hole, but it is most certainly wishful thinking to believe, as Sir David Barnes seems to, that AstraZeneca will soon be challenging Glaxo Wellcome in product development and market reach.

Hakan Mogren, the portly former chocolate factory manager who runs Astra, gets his long sought after passport out of Stockholm (oh how the Swedes do like London) while Perry Barnevik is delivered another management challenge to get his teeth into. And the deal partially solves the problem of management success-



## OUTLOOK

sion at Zeneca. But what's in it for shareholders?

Individually, both companies are just about bite for the goths, but together they are too big to swallow. It can readily be seen that if the merger fails to deliver the promised new force in global pharmaceuticals, it will destroy shareholder value, not create it. Both share prices rose strongly yesterday, but this was less of a thumbs up for the merger as a recognition of the opportunity it creates for others to swoop. We can probably safely rule out Glaxo Wellcome. Much as it would like to take out Zeneca, the scale of the job cuts

it would have to push through to make the takeover pay would make it politically unacceptable. But a company such as Roche might be interested in either Zeneca or Astra. Nor would other foreign players have any such qualms over British job losses.

With so many other big mergers in the regulatory mangle, including two other giant pharmaceutical get-togethers, this deal could take as long as nine months to clear. That allows plenty of time for rival proposals to come forward.

## Railtrack

PICTURE THE situation. There's the Fat Controller (John Prescott) advertising for a new rail regulator, having given the last one, John Swift, his marching orders a couple of months back for being too soft on the railways. The acting Rail Regulator, Chris Bolt, wants the job, so what better way of getting his application in than producing an exceptionally tough regulatory review. Isn't this just what the deputy prime minister ordered? In opposi-

tion, Mr Prescott never missed an opportunity to lambast "fat cat" utility bosses for excessive profiteering. So here's a chance to prove my worth by socking it to Railtrack, the diligent and ambitious Mr Bolt must have thought. Er...but then again, perhaps not.

In carrying out his review, Mr Bolt has applied much the same model as used for electricity: gas and most recently water. Railtrack's regulatory asset base has been set to reflect the value of the company after its first day of trading on the stock market, or less than three times its present value. The rate of return it is allowed to earn on these assets has been struck at just 5-6 per cent.

The effect of this is substantially to reduce the access charges that Railtrack charges train operating companies for using its rail network, which in turn means that Railtrack earns less profit and the Government is able to reduce the subsidies it pays the operating companies. If that doesn't please the deputy prime minister, what will. Mr Bolt must have thought. Better still, he now proposes that Railtrack shouldn't be allowed to earn any return on the £1bn

it has invested in the rail network over and above that allowed for by the existing regulatory regime. How about that for expropriation, beats nationalisation any day. Mr Bolt must have boasted to himself.

But hold on a moment. Is this really what the Fat Controller wants? What he said in opposition is one thing. What he wants now he is in Government - an integrated transport policy which gets people off the roads and onto the trains - is quite another. The truth of the matter is that from the Government's point of view, Railtrack probably offers the most eloquent and practical way of getting the investment it wants in the railways.

This might seem an odd thing to argue given the frequency with which Railtrack is accused of underinvesting, but look at like this. So Mr Bolt gets his way, the rail access charges are cut in the way envisaged, subsidies are reduced and the Government's coffers are swelled accordingly. The trouble is that even if the Government were itself to invest via the planned Strategic Rail Authority, all those savings directly in the railways a big if, given the Gov-

ernment's other priorities, it would be but a drop in the ocean compared with the geared way in which Railtrack can invest. As things stand Railtrack is able to finance investment equal to about 10 times its profits. Every £1 less in profits means £10 less investment. For the Government, Railtrack therefore provides a quite effective off-balance sheet and geared way of financing its plans for the railways.

Railtrack is right to believe that the game has changed, that Mr Bolt is applying outdated concepts and priorities. It may also be right in believing it can persuade Mr Prescott that the goal posts have moved sufficiently to require a rethink.

## Interest rates

EVERYBODY - retailers and manufacturers alike, unions and bosses, the Financial Times and no doubt Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer too - is urging the MPC to follow the Nike strategy: just do it. Slash a full point off interest rates! But the monetary nine are made of sterner stuff than the rest of us. They neither should

nor will give way to the impulse for such an extravagant display of festive spirit.

This is not to say that there will be no rate cut today. A quarter or half point reduction is a racing certainty. But all those urging a bolder move should recall that the UK has the worst inflation record among the major economies. The slowdown so far has been enough to get inflation to its target but no further.

The Bank's inflation report last month showed it staying around 2.5 per cent, not falling, and a bit of seasonal retail gloom will not have changed the forecast much during the past month. Other forecasters, no matter how gloomy about the economic outlook, also see inflation staying close to target.

What the circus of demonstrations in Threadneedle Street and strident punditry calling for decisive action really demonstrate is a widespread belief that the Bank of England should act like chancellors always did, and use interest rates to fine tune output and jobs over the business cycle. Britain's long history of such monetary fine-tuning shows that it simply doesn't work.

# Regulator gets tough on Railtrack

BY PHILIP THORNTON  
Transport Correspondent

News Analysis: Proposals to restrict returns on the railways to 5-6 per cent will cut state subsidies but also threatens necessary investment

NOT BAD for one day's work. Shares in Railtrack dropped 64p to £14.57 after Chris Bolt, the acting rail regulator, produced his new financial straightjacket for the company, following a 49p fall the previous day. More than 7 per cent has been wiped off the stock market value because of a proposal that is still two-and-a-half years from becoming effective.

If Mr Bolt's proposals are enshrined in tablets of stone, Railtrack's regulated business will be restricted to making a return of 5-6 per cent against an asset base of £2.54bn - its value on privatisation.

Railtrack had lobbied for an asset base of about £4bn, or an uplift of 60 per cent. The company's market value is now less than three times its flotation value. But the new regulator was clear: "There is no

obvious case for rewarding shareholders for more than they invested in the company. Initial shareholders and those who subsequently bought Railtrack shares could have made themselves aware of the basis on which the regulator was minded to calculate a return for Railtrack at future reviews of its charges."

Mr Bolt said Railtrack had a choice. It could either continue to behave as a low-risk utility and work within the proposed low rates of return, or it could initiate "innovative" schemes in which Railtrack, rather than the public purse, would take the risk of success or failure, meriting higher rates of return.

Yesterday's announcement by Mr Bolt exposed the curious position that Railtrack is in. Privatised in 1996 and given

total freedom to borrow and enter into joint ventures, the amount it can charge domestic train companies for access to the tracks is strictly controlled. Although it is a monopoly utility it is being told that it should behave like a high-risk/high-return growth stock.

Mr Bolt's proposals will mean that Railtrack has to charge less for access to its tracks. Passenger franchise revenue makes up £2.13bn out of an annual turnover of £2.47bn. By cutting its traditional income the regulator is forcing Railtrack to seek new ways of making money.

The acting regulator has given a clear message to the company. He has taken the toughest possible approach to regulating Railtrack's core business - the politically sensitive job

of maintaining and enhancing the domestic track network. Alastair Gunn, a transport analyst at Credit Lyonnais Securities, said the impact of the new regulatory framework on Railtrack's profitability could be in the order of £100m.

"These are severe proposals. What the regulator is saying is that Railtrack's profits are very high and are not going to be sustainable in the future. The shares have been treated so far as a growth type of stock, not as a regulatory stock like water companies."

Peter Bergius, an ABN Amro analyst, said: "This is a tough approach, with the proposed rate of return at the bottom end of expectations if not below expectations." A number of brokers are planning to reduce their ratings of Railtrack shares.

Railtrack is furious at Mr Bolt's approach. Gerald Corbett, the chief executive, said: "His approach was one that would be taken with a traditional utility but the world has moved on. Rail isn't water and it isn't electricity. Rail is different - huge growth, huge investment requirements." He said Mr Bolt was exercising his duties under the Railways Act 1993, even though this is due to be superseded by new legislation.

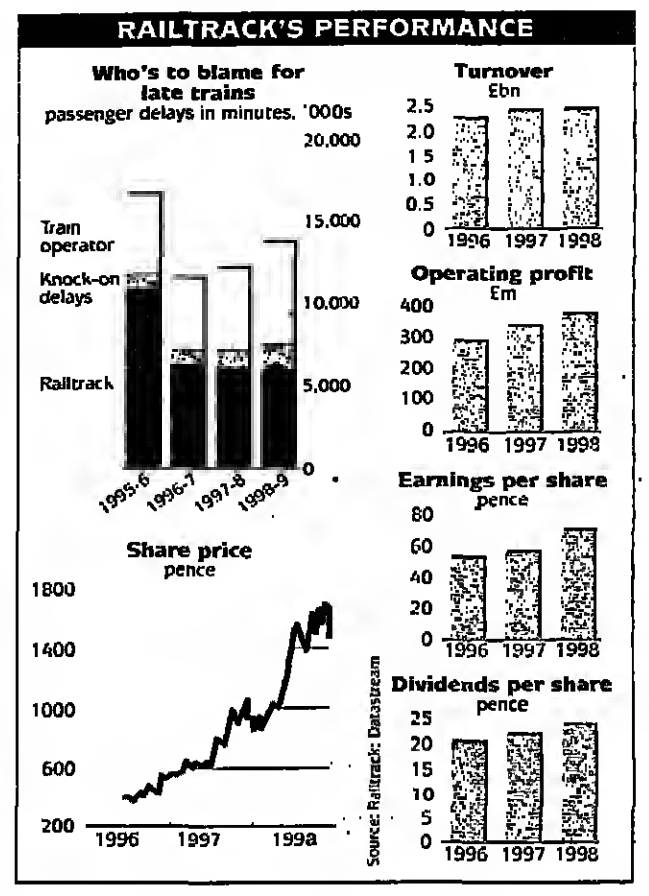
Mr Corbett said the Government needed to build a new "economic architecture" for the railways as part of its plans for a strategic rail authority. This would involve giving train companies incentives to perform well. He said that when the regime was set up "there was no West Coast upgrade, no 'standing-room only' on the London to

Edinburgh route or overcrowding from Brighton to Victoria".

He added that Railtrack had delivered investment of £1.4bn a year, a huge growth in passenger numbers, and had cut infrastructure-related delays by 40 per cent. "Every £1m of profit supports £10m of investment," said Mr Corbett, referring to Railtrack's rating in the debt and equity markets.

Yesterday's review comes against a background of increasing pressure on John Prescott, the Secretary of State for Transport, to force rail companies to deliver a better service. References to "excessive" profits and to shareholders having received enough rewards will generally go down well.

But Bernard Jenkin, the Conservative transport spokesman, asked yesterday whether this document showed Mr Prescott wanted to recreate British Rail by the back door.



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# Merger hopes send blue chips higher

THE STOCK MARKET happily indulged in its favourite activity - trying to spot the next big victim. The dramatic £48bn Astra-Zeneca merger should provide the Christmas fillip the market needed, offering yet further evidence that the era of the mega-deal continues to flourish.

The Anglo-Swedish alliance looks time to excite. Hopes of lower interest rates continued to make much of the running but by late afternoon blue chips were on a drugs-inspired high with Footsie up 76 points, nudging 5,700. A little profit taking near the close left the index with a 53.1 plus at 5,669.1.

Zeneca, at one time up 253p, ended with a 191p gain at 2,711p. Trading was again feverish with Seag turnover almost 25 million shares.

The possibility of more merger activity in the pharmaceutical industry and another drugs group barging into the cosy Astra-Zeneca deal helped pump the adrenaline.

SmithKline Beecham, which had high-profile but abortive merger talks with Glaxo Wellcome earlier this year, rose 33p after 53p to 790p and Glaxo, often men-

## MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

tioned as a likely bidder for Zeneca, improved 18p to 1,956p.

Shell, meeting analysts next week, rose 12.5p to 362p as stories swirled that the Anglo-Dutch oil giant could be involved in merger talks with the Chevron oil group.

Rentakal Initial, the environmental group with predatory instincts, rose 24.75p to 405.75p, and Colt Telecom, expected to respond to Tuesday's telecoms merger with a deal of its own, dialled a 32p gain to yet another peak, 872p.

Other Footsie bid favourites such

as Vodafone, 33p to 913p, and Bank of Scotland, 15.5p to 688.5p, joined in the fun.

Sears, the retailer where high-street entrepreneur Philip Green hovers, jumped 32p to 270.5p. Rank, the leisure group, rose 11.5p to 224p and Aegis, the media buyer, 5p to 89.75p. Even the bewickered old faithful United Biscuits was nudged down for another whirl, up 6.5p to 242.5p.

But Kingfisher, reflecting relief over its trading statement, topped the Footsie leader board with a 61p jump to a 804p peak, a remarkable performance for a retailer in the current spending gloom. Heal's, the furniture chain, rose 35p to 122.5p on its upbeat trading performance but the furniture chain DFS slid to a new low of 157.5p following cautious comments.

ScottishPower, which has felt the weight of market unease over its bid for the US PacificCorp utility, recovered 22p to 122.5p on the feeling that its US acquisition could be snatched away by a counter-offer.

The Footsie changes were much as expected. Two constituents of the dismantled Hanson empire, Impe-

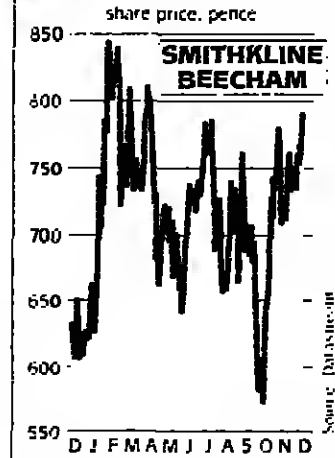
rial Tobacco and the Hanson building materials group, have joined the exclusive club, so have the Gallaher tobacco group and Dixons, the electrical retailer enjoying the distinction of being an Internet play.

CHIROSCIENCE could be a casualty of the Zeneca/Astra alliance. The shares plunged 31p to 272.5p as it became apparent its close association with Zeneca could be over. Much of its value relates to its marketing deal with Zeneca for its local anaesthetic. The drugs giant planned to take the treatment through the regulatory process and market it. But Astra has a similar product and Chiroscience is likely to be abandoned.

Out, after only a brief acquaintance with the club, go computer groups Misys and Sema, health care group Nycomed Amersham and old stager British Land.

The mid cap changes dump some famous old names. Joining

## SHARE SPOTLIGHT



the small companies index are Booker, the cash and carry chain, MFI, the furniture retailer and Cnats Vytella.

Before their relegation was known British Land, caught by the property malaise, was down 23.5p to 450p, a year's low, and Nycomed 8.5p to 355p.

Elsewhere British Aerospace, 21.5p to 525.5p, and Rolls-Royce,

9.25p to 239.75p, flew higher partly on new aircraft orders. BAE was also helped by suggestions that its deal with DaimlerChrysler Aerospace will be concluded today.

Railtrack was shunted back-

MORE STAKE BUILDING at Norcor, the packaging group which has for long looked a takeover candidate. The shares held at 49p as Linpac, a packaging rival, lifted its shareholding to 20.36 per cent, buying 1.2 million shares.

Jefferson Smurfit, the Irish packaging giant, already sits on a near 30 per cent interest. Norcor's profits are under pressure and the shares are a long way from the 135p peak hit in 1995.

wards on the report of rail regulator Chris Bolt, losing 64p to 1.45p, and indications that Ladbroke is having difficulty achieving the forced sale of its Coral betting shops chain knocked the shares 9.5p to 217p. Stanley Leisure, one con-

tender, has dropped out of the running.

Arriva, the former Cowie transport group, reversed 60.5p to 372.5p following its surprise decision to hang on to its finance division. It said none of the offers it had received reached its valuation.

Takeover activity on the undercard included insurance group Ockham, up 8.5p to 74.5p, bidding for control of insurer New London Capital, 17.5p harder at 84.5p. Zergo, an IT group, 60p higher to 355p on talks with Dublin-based Baltimore Technologies; and property developer City Site, 5p stronger to 32.5p as Miller Group pressed ahead with its 35p offer.

Blockley, the building materials group, held at 41.5p as bidder Natural Building Materials, claiming the backing of shareholders with 40.8 per cent of the shares, continued to attack the defending board. Hewitson, where a possible bidder has made contact, jumped 25p to 175p.

SEAG TRADES: 919 million  
SEAG VOLUME: 65,848  
GILT INDEX: 114.80 +0.46

Investment: Analysts doubt the accounting software supplier can maintain growth

## Sage shares dip despite results

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

SAGE LEARNED yesterday that life is not always easy as a highly-rated technology stock. The accounting software supplier has seen its share price double in the past 12 months. But yesterday its shares dipped 47.5p to 1460p, even though it turned in a strong set of full-year results.

Industry observers said the dip in share price was the result of profit-taking. "The shares had a strong run ahead of the results," one City analyst said. "It is one of the most expensive technology stocks in Europe on a p/e ratio relative to growth."

On profit forecasts for 1999 of £60m, Sage shares trade on a multiple of 42-times expected earnings - high even for an information technology company.

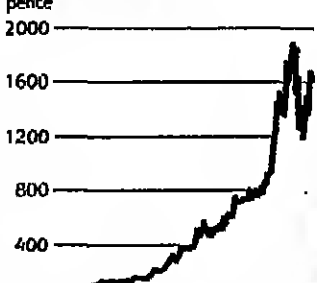
Not that anyone is criticising Sage's performance. True to form, Sage reported pre-tax profits up 27 per cent to £47.6m - its 13th successive year of growth. The rise was boosted by a first-time contribution from State of the Art, the US software supplier that Sage bought for £159m earlier this year.

In seven months, the business contributed operating profits of £6.1m on sales of £30.8m. "It exceeded our expectations," said Paul

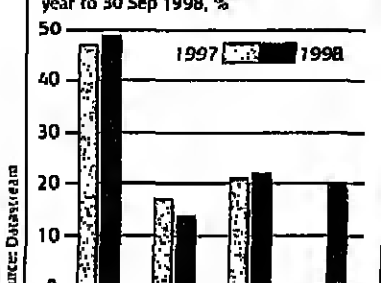
### SAGE: AT A GLANCE

Five-year record	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Turnover (£m)	51.00	102.00	136.00	152.00	192.00
Pre-tax profits (£m)	14.30	22.40	30.00	37.60	47.60
Earnings per share (p)	9.10	13.90	18.50	23.40	28.90
Dividends per share (p)	2.18	2.40	2.64	2.90	3.19

### Share price



### Operating margins



Walker, Sage's chief executive. "And we think there is a lot more to get out of it."

However, Sage's organic growth was more pedestrian, with operating profits from the ongoing business rising 13.5 per cent. In the UK, the company's traditional market and main source of profit, Sage grew by taking market share from its small-

er rivals. However, results in Germany were hit by a change to the company's policy of selling licences. Mr Walker is confident that the German market will recover in 1999. Investors are increasingly wondering whether Sage can maintain its rate of growth. But Michael Jackson, the Sage chairman, said the "new year had already started strongly".



Michael Jackson, chairman of Sage: Strong start to new year

According to the company 85 per cent of its customers - which are mostly small and medium-sized businesses - have not yet prepared for the millennium bug. The company is giving away free software upgrades to customers, which should stimulate them to sign up for its long-term support contracts, bringing in a steady stream of rev-

enue. Meanwhile, Sage is also adding products to its portfolio. Mr Walker points out that the company has started selling products that deal with human resources and profit forecasting. It is also offering its products to larger customers, raising the prospect of Sage taking on competitors that supply enterprise resource planning software - packages that enable companies to run their entire business on a single system. But Mr Walker knocks back suggestions that Sage will take on giants such as SAP pointing out that the German software group has traditionally only dealt with huge multinational enterprises.

One potential area for expansion is the Internet. Sage is talking with Internet providers about providing its customers with a complete package which would allow them to pull some of their finance operations on-line.

But the City is sceptical about these steps making a difference. Although analysts are full of admiration for the company's management and business model, which delivers long-term, predictable, earnings streams, few can make a case for buying the shares. A one sceptic said: "The shares are obviously overpriced. The only question is how long that will last."

## Greenalls' £370m pubs sell-off marks fresh round in strategy

GREENALLS, the leisure group, yesterday confirmed the sale of its tenanted pub estate to Nomura for £370m and said it would return £100m of the proceeds to shareholders via a special dividend of 34p per share.

The deal involves the 1,241 pubs included in Greenalls' Inns Partnership Group and takes Nomura's pub estate to around 5,200. The pubs include Greenalls' core estate in the north-west of England as well as those acquired from Devenish in 1993 and the Boddingtons pub group three years later. About 80 pubs are not included but 60 of these will be sold separately.

The sell-off marks a new stage in Greenalls' gradual shift away from its roots in brewing and pubs. It pulled out of brewing in 1980 and the group is now focused on hotels, which include the De Vere and Village brands; city centre bars such

as Henry Cafe Bars; and its new Greens health and fitness clubs, the first of which will be opened next year.

Reporting flat profits of £158m for the year to September, Lord Daresbury, Greenalls' chief executive, said that the pub business continued to be affected by the more cautious consumer environment, but the branded managed pubs were proving more resilient.

Even so, industry analysts are divided as to the wisdom of Greenalls' strategy. The deal will be dilutive and there are also fears that having over-paid for both Devenish and Boddingtons in the past, Greenalls has now pulled out of its two previously core activities and is expanding headlong into sectors dominated by others.

Though the De Vere hotels brand is strong, there are questions over the expansion into health and fitness where Whitbread, with its David Lloyd Centres and First Leisure, is already more established. However, selling the tenancies when demand is strong has been welcomed. "It looks like a good move but this what we really want to see is this group's useful return on capital improve," one analyst said.

Greenalls shares, which closed 7.5p lower at 343.5p yesterday, have under-performed the market by 22 per cent over the last year and 47 per cent over the last five. Just over a year ago, potential bidders were looking at the group including Whitbread and venture capital groups.

Assuming full year profits of £158m this year the shares trade on a lowly forward rating of 9. A bidder may yet emerge. Without one it looks like a long slog.

## David S Smith's profits are bad news for jobs

BY SIMON DUKE

THE STRENGTH of sterling and a slump in the packaging market saw shares in David S Smith plunge by more than 7 per cent yesterday, as the paper and packaging company predicted job cuts and falling profits.

Peter Williams, the chief executive, said: "The state of packaging and paper markets has led to profitability that is below our expectations, and a disappointing share price."

Reporting a 29 per cent fall in half-year pre-tax profits to £20.7m, Mr Williams added: "With France off the boil, and Germany going the same way, we cannot be optimistic about trading in the short term."

Mr Williams warned that job losses "under a worst-case scenario" could reach 950 across the UK, with the closure of the Aspley plant already under way. The company also announced that it had "entered into discussions" over the possible sale of Spicer, its robust office supply divi-

sion. If the sale is agreed, the company will either make an acquisition or return cash to shareholders.

David S Smith said from a 12-month high of 253p in May to yesterday's close of 98p, as sterling strength eroded the competitiveness of UK exporters, traditionally Smith's biggest customers. The company estimates that it loses £1m in profit for every 1p falling that sterling gains against the mark.

One analyst described his meeting with the company as "one of the most bleak I've been to in 10 years", adding that the packaging industry was "going south fast". Slashing its full-year profit forecasts by 10m to 35m, he said that the packaging industry suffered from its massive fixed costs, leaving companies exposed to the slightest downturns in sales volumes.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES									
Country	Sterling	1 month	3 month	Dollar	Spot	1 month	3 month	D-Mark	Spot
US	1.6900			0.6031	0.6036	0.6049	0.6067	0.3617	
Japan	166.80	166.80	166.80	1.6311	1.6311	1.6320	1.6320	0.9722	
France	19.458	19.458	19.458	1.1736	1.1736	1.1736	1.1736	0.7081	
Germany	163.77	163.77	163.77	34.425	34.425	34.425	34.425	0.0845	
Canada	57.077	57.077	57.077	1.5430	1.5430	1.5430	1.5430	0.9253	
Denmark	10.515	10.515	10.515	6.3420	6.3420	6.3420	6.3420	3.8033	
ECU	14.03	14.03	14.03	1.7175	1.7175	1.7175	1.7175	0.8147	
Finland	8.401	8.401	8.401	3.3959	3.3959	3.3959	3.3959	1.0000	
France	9.775	9.775	9.775	5.5938	5.5938	5.5938	5.5938	3.3546	
Germany	2.7647	2.7647	2.7647	1.6873	1.6873	1.6873	1.6873	0.8936	
Greece	163.58	163.58	163.58	4.6876	4.6876	4.6876	4.6876	1.0000	
Hong Kong	12.846	12.846	12.846	7.7478	7.7478	7.7478	7.7478	4.6463	
Ireland	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.006	1.006	1.006	1.006	0.7245	
Italy	173.74	173.74	173.74	1.6510	1.6510	1.6510	1.6510	0.9910	
Japan	195.56	195.56	195.56	117.95	117.95	117.95	117.95	7.0735	
Malaysia	6.2855	6.2855	6.2855	9.5070	9.5070	9.5070	9.5070	3.3110	
Mexico	3.1170	3.1170	3.1170	1.8800	1.8800	1.8800	1.8800	1.2714	
Netherlands	3.2113	3.2113	3.2113	0.5190	0.5190	0.5190	0.5190	0.3394	
New Zealand	1.2737	1.2737	1.2737	1.7555	1.7555	1.7555	1.7555	1.2370	
Norway	163.77	163.77	163.77	1.1713	1.1713	1.1713	1.1713	1.0263	
Portugal	204.48	204.48	204.48	3.7518	3.7518	3.7518	3.7518	2.2459	
Saudi Arabia	6.2204	6.2204	6.2204	1.5713	1.5713	1.5713	1.5713	0.9876	
Singapore	2.7303	2.7303	2.7303	5.9700	5.9700	5.9700	5.9700	3.5802	
South Africa	9.8883	9.8883	9.8883	10.1707	10.1707	10.1707	10.1707	1.6120	
Spain	163.58	163.58	163.58	141.38	141.38	141.38	141.38	85.169	
Sweden	13.348	13.348	13.348	12.255	12.255	12.255	12.255	4.8279	
Switzerland	1.6580	1.6580	1.6580	1.3585	1.3585	1.3585	1.3585	0.8147	
US	1.6580	1.6580	1.6580	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	0.5997	

INTEREST RATES									
UK	6.75%	Germany	2.50%	US	7.75%	Japan	0.50%		
Discount		Discount	4.50%	Discount	4.50%	Discount	2.75%		
Intervention 3.00%		Prime	6.75%	Repo	4.50%	Central	3.00%		
		Discount	5.25%	10d Repo	3.00%	Switzerland	1.00%		
		Netherlands	Denmark	Sweden		Lombard	3.00%		
		Spain	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%				
		Switzerland	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%				
		US	4.30%	4.30%	4.30%				

BOND YIELDS									
Country	3 mth	6 mth	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr	15 yr	20 yr
Australia	4.44	4.44	4.44	4.44	4.44	4.44	4.44	4.44	4.44
Belgium	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25
Canada	4.69	4.69	4.69	4.69	4.69	4.69	4.69	4.69	4.69
ECU	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45
France	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Germany	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40
Italy	3.39	3.39	3.39	3.39	3.39	3.39	3.39	3.39	3.39
Japan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Netherlands	3.23	3.23	3.23	3.23	3.23	3.23	3.23	3.23	3.23
Spain	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Sweden	3.61	3.61	3.61	3.61	3.61	3.61	3.61	3.61	3.61
Switzerland	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
UK	6.01	6.01	6.01	6.01	6.01	6.01	6.01	6.01	6.01
US	4.30	4.30	4.30	4.30	4.30	4.30	4.30	4.30	4.30

www.bloomberg.com/uk Source: Bloomberg

LIFFE FINANCIAL FUTURES									
Contract	Settlement		High	Low	Est. floor volume	Open interest			
Long Gilt	Dec-98	118.39	118.31	118.07	357.00	4520.00			
5 yr Gilt	Dec-98	108.48				319.00			
German Bund	Mar-99	116.19	116.19			0.00			
Italian Bond	Mar-99	114.07	114.14	113.40	11753.00	41077.00			
Japan Govt Bd	Mar-99	134.58	135.15	134.95	2562.00	0.00			
3 Mth Sterling	Dec-98	93.53	93.56	93.52	16620.00	179036.00			
3 Mth Eurodollar	Jan-99	94.57	94.61	94.56	14810.00	15323.00			
3 Mth Eurodollar	Feb-99	96.78	96.78	96.75	925.00	15797.00			
3 Mth Eurodollar	Mar-99	96.82	96.89	96.86	3419.00	250796.00			
3 Mth Eurodollar	Apr-99	96.87	96.96	96.93	1507.00	73949.00			
3 Mth Euroyen	Mar-99	99.61				0.00			
3 Mth Euroswiss	Mar-99	93.63	93.65	93.59	10431.00	58390.00			
3 Mth Euro	Apr-99	96.57	96.60	96.52	5908.00	28955.00			
3 Mth Euro	Feb-99	96.78				2241.00			
FTSE 100	Dec-98	5671.00	5703.00	5580.00	34429.00	126810.00			
LIFFE FTSE 100 INDEX OPTION									
Settlement Price: 5669.10									
	Dec	Call	Imp	Pst	Pst	Imp	Pst	Imp	Pst
Series	6500	185	30	70	35	287	195	395	273
5650	150	26	70	30	245	100	365	284	147
5700	128	32	105	31	229	220	335	314	38
5750	92	31	97	29	205	258	306	335	358



## SPORT

Cricket: Australia embarrassed and its heroes tarnished in an affair which may produce more startling revelations

## Inquiry urged into Warne payments

THE FAMOUS baggy green cap of Australian cricket sits atop a face which is beetroot red today after embarrassing revelations that the game's governing body kept quiet about fines imposed on Shane Warne and Mark Waugh for accepting payments from an Indian bookmaker.

In a special broadcast, recorded standing next to the national flag, the Prime Minister, John Howard, called the disclosures "deeply disturbing". Richie Benaud, doyen of commentators and a former Test captain, called for a full inquiry lest young cricketers lose confidence in the way the game was being run. He also urged consideration of "all the cricket lovers who pay their money at the turnstiles and keep the game going. I would like to see an inquiry to let them know exactly what has happened."

The Wisden editor, Matthew Engel, told public broadcaster ABC, which devoted the opening 10 minutes of its evening news to the affair, that this could be "a very small part of a very big story" and cricket's "worst crisis since Bodyline".

The two players were presented to waiting reporters at a news conference yesterday in Adelaide, where the Australian team has gathered for tomorrow's third Test against England.

Both agreed their actions had been "naïve and stupid". Flanked by Warne and Waugh, the current Australian Cricket Board chief executive, Malcolm Speed, glumly conceded that "Australian cricket's very high reputation has been damaged by this incident".

The leg-spinner Warne, currently recuperating from a shoulder injury but expected to return to Ashes action later in the series, said: "I was approached by a man who I later discovered to be a bookmaker from India." Warne had provided information, he said, about the pitch

BY JAKE LYNCH  
in Sydney

and weather conditions during Australia's tour of Sri Lanka in 1994.

Warne added: "I am very disappointed and sorry for my actions" - sentiments echoed by Waugh, who is expected to bat at No 4 against England. Waugh had been paid the equivalent of £2,500, and Warne £2,000 - payments the ACB heard about some time later from an unnamed source. The fines (£4,000 for Waugh and £3,200 for Warne) were imposed in February 1995 but never made public. Alan Crompton, then chairman of the ACB, said: "The risk was that the public could take a wrong mental leap and assume or believe that the players could be involved in other activities. They clearly were not."

But neither Crompton's statement nor the ACB media offensive could lift scepticism over why such generous payments were offered, and fines imposed, for the provision of information as seemingly mundane as pitch and weather reports - a version of events both players took the precaution of writing out in their own hand for their statements to the news conference. Jonathan Agnew, the former England and Leicestershire bowler now commenting for the BBC, said: "I think there's more to it."

Indian bookmakers are renowned for taking a detailed interest in such matters, but they usually consult professional forecasting organisations. The Queensland Weather Bureau reported receiving as many as a dozen calls from the subcontinent during the first Ashes Test in Brisbane, where storm clouds gathering over the Gabba eventually burst, costing the home team an almost certain victory.

It remained doubtful whether the shadows gathering over preparations



Mark Waugh, wearing his Australian team tracksuit, and Shane Warne arrive at the Adelaide Oval to face questions from the world's press over payments from an Indian bookmaker AP

for the next Test would be dispelled as quickly, however. During the years since the original incident both Warne and Waugh have traded heavily on their reputations as, in Howard's words, "Australian icons."

Both players gave affidavits in the case against Salim Malik, the then Pakistan captain, over allegations of bribery and attempted match-fixing. The pair, with Test colleague Tim May, said Salim had offered them US \$200,000 (about £120,000) each to play

badly in a one-day game on the 1994 tour after it moved on from Sri Lanka.

Waugh, with the captain Mark Taylor, flew to Lahore during Australia's last tour of Pakistan two months ago, to reiterate his claims in person to a judge at a special court. The solicitor in charge of the investigation for the Pakistan Cricket Board, Ali Sibtain Fazli, told the Australian newspaper that Waugh's evidence was central to the case against Salim, which could now be

jeopardised. Salim has constantly denied the charges along with his team-mates Wasim Akram and Ijaz Ahmed, and will now sue his accusers.

"I have suffered so much because of these false charges by these Australian cricketers," said Salim, who has been recalled for the second Test against Zimbabwe starting today in Lahore. "They have spoiled my cricket for the last two years."

## Cover-up by the board was totally irresponsible

IT COULD have been the Tweedledum and Tweedledee show, though both tended towards the dumb, with their matching statements and deadpan deliveries. Twenty-four hours earlier, Mark Waugh and Shane Warne were the leading lights of an Australian team bathed in a golden glow. Now, here they were, a leak later, like little boys lost, forced to own up in public to a past misdeed.

Providing what the players claim in their statements is true - that they merely provided pitch and weather conditions to a man on a phone - the hypocrisy of the Australian Cricket Board is the real issue here. An issue that has brought them severe embarrassment.

Covering up the truth is one thing, but withholding it, particularly from an inquiry as serious and thorough as the one going on in Pakistan, and where players if found guilty could end up in gaol, is totally irresponsible.

If it is curious for a wrongdoing to have been punished four years before it was admitted, cricket clubs - which is essentially what the ACB is - have long been notoriously bad at considering the public interest. Indeed had this episode not been leaked, nothing but a shadowy rumour would have marked the spot.

Confessionals are all about being called to account. But if the players have at last come clean, the ACB still has not offered a satisfactory explanation - other than it was policy to do things in private - why it covered up the episode. Similarly, the Board's claim that both players had been "full and frank" is also disingenuous and was only given after they knew the game was up.

Of course, the offence committed by the two players is hardly a candidate for crime of the century and people in the media provide much the same information on pitches and weather for spread betting companies all the time. In fact, as a player I willingly passed on the same information without a second thought to a friend who worked for Ladbrokes.

Mind you, he was a pal and no payment, other than the odd beer, was ever offered. If it had been, especially in line with the £2,500 and £2,000 paid to Waugh and Warne, I would like to think some alarm bells would have rung.

Like most who judge in hindsight though, the "ifs" are always hypothetical and I doubt that when the pair were approached on their tour of Sri Lanka in 1994 either knew betting was illegal in India.

If people find that hard to swallow, the discrepancy in the size of the payments received by the two players, as well as the severity of the fines (£7,200 in total is hefty) is even stranger, particularly as it was going to be kept secret.

However, the most perplexing and inexplicable aspect was the need for the hookey to have two highly expensive weather and pitch reports. But if the economics do not make sense, perhaps this was a bookie who did not want to do things by halves and, like a true professional, wanted a batsman's, as well as a bowler's, point of view before making his market.

That Waugh and Warne are



DEREK PRINGLE

Australian cricket has never been good at taking its medicine, and most of those involved would rather swallow a bag of rusty nails than admit to hubris

two of the three that accused Salim Malik of offering them bribes to throw matches, is also intriguing. Bookies, especially those operating out of Bombay, and other places in India, have close network and Salim, if he were guilty of the allegations, might have sought them out because he had been told of their previous dealings with bookies. After all, a nod and a wink is how most brethren work.

Malcolm Speed, the chief executive of the ACB and the only man allowed to be grilled by the media on Wednesday, assured everyone present that neither Waugh nor Warne had ever placed a bet on a cricket match, presumably relying on the work of the two players.

Perhaps most disturbing is that neither Aussie coughed to their own dealings after fingering Salim. Incredibly, in what the ACB claims was a thorough investigation into the matter at the time, the bookmaker at the centre of the affair was not interviewed. All Speed would say on the matter was that they were aware of his first name and that he came from Delhi.

Australian cricket has never been good at taking its medicine, and most of those involved would rather swallow a bag of rusty nails than admit to hubris. Not satisfied that a monstrous impropriety has been committed on their part, the hookey is now being passed to the International Cricket Council, who they claim knew of the misdemeanour soon after the ACB fined the two players in 1995.

Perhaps, in their wisdom, the ICC - who were told to treat the matter as confidential - felt that telling the inquiry in Pakistan, headed by Judge Mohammad Qayyum, would further muddy the waters and aid those close to being implicated. If they did, they too were guilty of perverting the course of justice.

In the next week or so, Judge Qayyum - following months of laborious testimony and effort in Lahore - is going to make his findings public. If cricket is to benefit from the effort, he must have every assistance from the ICC and its member Boards in pulling the strands together. Anything less and the tarnish now sticking to the game, will be impossible to abate.

## How the gangsters sucker players into betting

FOUR YEARS ago, during the Australian cricket team's tour of Pakistan, Shane Warne and Mark Waugh, we now know, took money from an Indian bookmaker in return for information about weather and ground conditions. But who was the bookmaker? In Delhi and Bombay, no one is talking. Betting on cricket is illegal, but another reason, a connected one, is that it is in the grip of the most fearsome crime syndicate in the subcontinent.

Dawood Ibrahim started as a small-time gangster in Bombay, rose through narcotics, protection, prostitution and property speculation then, in the early 1990s, when the heat got too hot, switched his operation to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. He is now believed to divide his time between Dubai and Karachi in Pakistan. But through his lieutenants he remains a frighteningly important figure in Bombay.

Earnings from cricket betting are steady. "The [illegal betting] trade is controlled by a Dubai cartel," Aniruddha Bahal, a respected investigative reporter, wrote last year. "...Dawood [Ibrahim] takes a keen

A terrifying crime syndicate is the force behind the thriving illegal bookmaking industry in India. By Peter Popham in Delhi

interest in match-fixing." Two of the gangster's brothers, Anand and Sunil Sawant (Sunil was shot dead in Dubai in 1995), have been named as principal figures in the racket.

From their headquarters in Sharjah, the desert town near Dubai which has become a major venue for international one-day cricket, the criminals who run cricket betting keep the branches in Bombay and

Karachi on a short leash: odds are rigidly controlled to prevent punters profiting from hedging - taking advantage of price fluctuations to back all possible outcomes at a profit. Discipline is ruthlessly imposed on the many smaller fish active in the racket throughout India and Pakistan. They stick to the Sharjah odds or face the consequences.

The great thing about cricket

betting, from the bookies' point of view, is that there are so many different things you can bet on - the toss, individual scores, a bowler's wickets, team scores per innings, as well as the final result. Most of these can be fixed, given co-operative players. The Indian bookie's approach to Waugh and Warne was only the first stage in a common process, according to Bahal.

He says: "When bookmakers approach players, there are three stages. First they ask for information about who's playing and who's not playing, the state of the pitch and so on, for which they pay well. Next they say, 'would you like to take a free bet with us?' If the player wins, he wins; but if he loses, the loss is overlooked. Then finally they say, 'could you arrange to get out for under 15? Or to bowl outside off stump for a couple of overs?' Once the player gets sucked in, what's to stop the bookies from blackmailing them?"

Bookies also bet on who will win the series outright. Pickering said: "The market for that has dried up now, though. Australia were 1-3 to win before the series began. They're 1-20 now." Ladbrokes bet on who will be the top batsman overall in the third Test. Alec Stewart is 4-1 favourite to score most runs for England, with Michael Atherton and Nasser Hussain at 9-2, while they make Mark Taylor "Burlington Bertie" (100-30) to be the leading Australian batsman, with Steve Waugh 7-2, and Mark Waugh 4-1.

Ian Davies

## BOOKMAKERS AND BATSMEN: HOW THE NUMBERS ADD UP IN CRICKET

SPORTS BETTING is a growth area for bookmakers and cricket, very much a numbers game, lends itself particularly to the spread betting market. Julian Barks, of Sporting Index, says the most popular market on the third Test, which starts in Adelaide tonight, is the spread on the numbers of runs a side will score in the first innings. Barks said yesterday: "We won't fix the exact spread until we know who's won the toss. But England will be quoted at 300-320. If you think they will score more than that, you 'buy' at that figure and, if you think they will score few-

er, you 'sell'. The more pounds per run the punter bets, the more they win or lose."

Barks says that, due to the time difference between England and Australia, they have a particularly popular market betting on how many runs will be scored in the first session, which will be over by 2am GMT, enabling nocturnal punters to be able to get off to bed at a relatively sane time, knowing whether they have won or not.

Novelty bets are also big business. City Index, for example, come out of the shade to offer a sartorial spread

on the number of catches by fielders sporting sunglasses.

Tim Pickering of the Tote said most cricket betting business is on outright results. The Tote bet 5-6 Australia, 5-5 the draw and 15-2 England on the third Test, and Pickering reckoned 90 per cent of cricket bets will be on this market. Pickering said: "The other 10 per cent will be on the markets we form on who will be the top batsman in the first innings for each side. Forming two markets, rather than betting on who will be top batsman overall enables punters to do doubles."

## Australians' red faces may conceal a red mist

THE TIMING, particularly for a man of Mark Waugh's silky skills in that area, could not have come at a worse time for Australia and their Cricket Board, particularly after their "holier than thou" stance on the match-fixing inquiry currently going on in Pakistan. England may be trailing in cricketing terms in this Ashes series, but they are at least winning the moral high ground.

Revelations about cricketers always seem to shock the public more than those in other sports and, coming as these did on the eve of an Ashes Test, merely heightened the indignation. Sadly for the third Test in Adelaide and the team that wins it, the sleaze element is almost certain to outweigh the cricket.

Unlike Waugh and Shane Warne,

BY DEREK PRINGLE  
in Adelaide

who was flown in specially to make his statement, Alec Stewart - after playing and missing a few times to questions beyond both his remit and common sense to answer - was able to keep his eye firmly on the ball at the press conference.

In truth, he probably enjoyed himself a bit too. During his Test career, England have been on the back foot against Australia and seeing two of their top players, as well as the ACB, squirm in front of a media intent on feeding long and hard, doubtless gave him a small feeling of satisfaction.

All this won't affect us at all," Stewart, for once the warm-up act

at the press conference rather than the main attraction, said. "We'll be trying to win, which is just the way we'd treat any other Test match and our preparation will not change."

What may alter though, is the final make-up of the team. If Stewart came to Adelaide with a fixed plan in mind, the nature of the pitch could well bring modifications.

The last two days have seen temperatures soar to 38C and the pavements in downtown Adelaide were hot enough to fry an egg on. To combat the drying effect of such heat, the groundsman has liberally applied the hosepipe, presumably in a bid to stop the pitch from disintegrating too early. Under water on Wednesday when England netted, the pitch will have changed in character totally by

the time Stewart tosses up tomorrow. "I've already offered Warne two beers to tell me what the pitch will do," Stewart joked. "Because of the soaking the groundsman has given it we'll probably delay naming our side until the morning of the match."

With Graham Thorpe now departed, Graeme Hick is a certainty to play though whether it is at six or seven depends if England's preferred bowling attack is four or five-pronged. If it is the former, John Crawley, despite looking hopelessly out of touch, will also be included.

As long as temperatures remain high, a spinner who can bowl long, tidy spells will be crucial. On the evidence of the Victoria game such a bowler was not easy to discern, and England would perhaps do as well to share the

job between Hick and Mark Ramprakash, rather than bring in a so-called specialist like Robert Croft.

If Chiles can be gained from player-watching, Hick, an absentee from the bowling roster in Melbourne, has at least been turning his arm over in the nets. At worst, Hick can do a job, something Dominic Cork, laid low with flu on Wednesday, may not be able to manage. Cork has not bowled consistently so far and England will probably replace him with Dean Headley, who looked spirited against Victoria.

"If we decide to play four bowlers," Stewart revealed without a hint of irony, "they will be our best four, irrespective of balance. If we decide on five, we'll go for a balanced attack and include a spinner."

Unless Mark Waugh withdraws voluntarily Australia have their XI already set in stone. Although Waugh has had four years to get over his foolishness, the public dimension will be unsettling and both he and Warne looked jittery as they read out their respective statements.

In some ways it is down to a question of whose morale is most affected - England's, after losing the last Test in two and a half days; or Australia's, following the revelations.

Stewart, always the first to try and allay fear, is adamant that England have forgotten about Perth. "We've lost before and come back to win," he retorted. "What happened in Perth is in the past. I just hope we learn from it. We're looking to play good cricket, compete

hard, and hopefully beat Australia." There is a danger that the furor may motivate Australia's tight unit even more than usual, though, mostly, the players will be angry at having their high reputation soiled by association.

However, it could just be that instead of facing a team reeling under public scrutiny, England will meet a side determined to be remembered for their fine cricket rather than an episode of sleaze.

ENGLAND (From): M A Atherton (Lancashire), M A Butcher (Surrey), M Hogg (Essex), T A J Smeaton (Surrey), J P Crawley (Lancashire), M R Stamp (Middlesex), G A Hick (Worcestershire), R D B Cook (Gloucestershire), R D B Cook (Gloucestershire), A J Taylor (Surrey), D W Headley (Kent). AUSTRALIA (From): M A Taylor, M J Slater, J L Langer, M E Waugh, S P Waugh, R T Ponting, H G D McGinnis, S C G Macdonald, D W Fleming, C R Miller, D W Fleming, C R Miller, D W Fleming, C R Miller.



# Rugby must tackle 'widespread' usage

JEFF, an ex-professional rugby player living in the North-west of England, knows a lot about steroids. Some of his acquaintances are dealers and some of his friends are suffering health problems after years of use. Jeff played both codes of the game before an injury forced retirement about seven years ago but is still closely involved in the sport.

"Watching certain teams and knowing what goes on, you can identify the players who are using steroids," he said of current professionals. "You can see quite a substantial amount are 'on the gear', as we call it."

"At the higher levels in rugby it's widespread because they're allowed to get away with it," Jeff added. "First of all they're not getting tested - either enough or at the right times - and secondly they [the authorities] are sweeping it under the carpet."

In response to *The Independent's* survey of drug use in British sport, four per cent of rugby union players admitted having used anabolic agents.

BY NICK HARRIS AND DAVE HADFIELD

None of the rugby league players admitted using them, but 46 per cent said they thought steroids were being used. In rugby union, the figure was 31 per cent.

When asked if current regulations were appropriate, 62 per cent of union and 46 per cent of league players said "no". Increased testing, of a random nature and especially in the off-season, were among specific changes called for.

Jeff (not his real name), said modern rugby has moved away from being a game played by "naturally big blokes, like farmers and labourers" to being a game with a base in "gym culture."

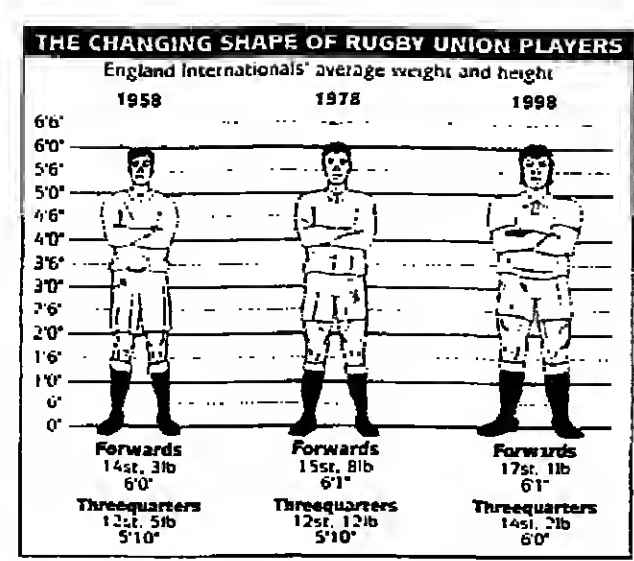
When Clive Woodward, the England rugby union coach, spoke earlier this year of northern hemisphere players needing to "bulk up", he certainly did not mean submerging themselves in the type of places where Jeff trained.

One gym, Jeff said, had a no-

drugs policy but "gear" was available from dealers in the car park. At another, the set-up was more professional, to the extent that the owners would inject steroids for players and even sell masking agents in eight to 12-week "package deals" costing anywhere from £200 to £300. Such gyms, Jeff said, are still common.

He added it was often not difficult to spot steroid users. "I remember a couple of props who went from little blokes to monsters almost overnight," he said. He said other signs include a condition known as "bitch tits" - where the nipples hang away from the chest in the same way a dog's nipples do when wearing pups - acne, and "steroid rage", where users have mood swings, often violent.

Welsh rugby union is still reeling from recent accusations made by the former international full-back JPR Williams that drug-taking is "fairly rife" in the sport and an investigation into the allegations is under way. Irish rugby is still digesting re-



marks made by Neil Francis, the former international lock, who said: "It's only a matter of time before an Irish international drops dead because his blood has turned to sludge."

South Africa's statistical record for positive tests remains the most alarming, with 10 bans for steroid use and eight for stimulants since Dr Ismail Jakoe, chairman of the South African Rugby Union's medical committee, set out on a drug-busting mission in his country in 1992. The Springbok lock Johann Ackerman remains the highest profile, having received a two-year ban after being found with traces of a steroid in

his system in 1996, but South Africa is now regarded as the squeaky clean member of rugby union's world family.

"Look at the number of drug tests carried out by us compared to England, New Zealand and Australia. It's a joke," Dr Jakoe said. "More than 250 tests, 50 per cent of which are out of season, are conducted on South African players on an annual basis."

The English Rugby Football Union recently decided to increase its annual quota from 65 to 200 a year. "The RFU takes the matter of alleged steroid and drug abuse very seriously," a spokesman said yesterday. "Although no player registered with the RFU has tested positive for serious drugs abuse, it has recently increased its programme of tests."

He added: "That 31 per cent of players believe there is steroid abuse in rugby union [as *The Independent's* survey showed] is not borne out by the tests we have undertaken."

At next year's World Cup, competing nations will have gone through a rigorous series

of drugs tests in qualifying that outstrips any single national body's efforts and have been put in place because the world's eyes will be on them. "The International Rugby Board had this realisation that a drug scandal could tarnish the game in a very bad way," Chris Thau, a World Cup spokesman said. "For the showcase of the sport, they thought it was money well spent [to significantly increase testing] to keep the image of the game clean."

Rugby league regards itself as the most rigorous of sports in testing for drug abuse. The game follows International Olympic Committee procedures in testing players after randomly selected matches, as well as inviting the Sports Council's doping control unit to make unannounced visits to training - in and out of season - to take samples. The sport carries out over 200 tests a year - far more proportionately than the much larger game of professional football.

"We are confident that rugby

league players are among the most monitored athletes in British professional sport," Neil Tunnicliffe, the Rugby Football League's chief executive, said. "We are very proud of the tough stance this sport has taken with drug takers."

Against that background of low tolerance, the sport has returned only a handful of positive tests. Two prominent players, the Doncaster full-back Jamie Bloom, and the Oldham hooker, David Stephenson, have served maximum two-year bans for steroid use and have returned to the game with other clubs. Bloom, now with Halifax, later claimed in a newspaper article that drug abuse was widespread in the sport, but then withdrew that accusation. In a survey organised by the RFL in 1996, 70 per cent said that they believed the game's drug policy was effective and that the game did not have a widespread problem of abuse. Thirty per cent disagreed.

Additional reporting by Gary Lenke.



Hampshire powerlifter Dean Bowring, the British No 2 in his class, has a weight on his shoulders as he campaigns to keep his sport drug-free and have clean lifters receive the recognition they deserve. David Ashdown

## Bowring tries to lift the stigma 'The gear' comes out of the locker-rooms and on to the streets

DEAN BOWRING is a man with a seemingly impossible mission. The 24-year-old powerlifter from Hampshire, a member of the British squad and ranked second in the country in his class, wants to convince people his sport has cleaned up its act. A staunch anti-drugs campaigner, he feels aggrieved that clean participants in lifting are tarnished by association with those who are not.

"I make no money at all from powerlifting. I do it because I love doing it," he said. "In the British squad, I'd say 99 per cent of lifters are clean." He added: "But when that squad goes away to lift internationally, most of the other countries take drugs and they speak openly about it." Bowring's own second placing in last year's World Junior (Under-94) Championships is testament to that - he originally finished fourth but was promoted two places after failed drugs tests.

Evidence there is still a problem at home is not hard to come by. There were 14 Sports Council tests with "irregularities" (positives or refusals) in

powerlifting and weightlifting combined last year, including five positive tests for anabolic steroids. *The Independent's* survey shows 30 per cent of respondents have used steroids and 40 per cent think steroids are used. And even Bowring himself admits that the culture of the gym is drowning in drugs.

"There are gyms around where everyone takes drugs and that's why I don't go there. And in these gyms, there are bigger dealers than your average Joe who gets a bit of gear and sells it on. You've got guys who have a lot of gear and they

push it. It's always the unspeakable thing, but it's everywhere."

Powerlifting is competitive lifting for bodybuilders and has three disciplines. Weightlifting is an Olympic sport with two disciplines. Both come under the jurisdiction of the British Amateur Weightlifting Association. Powerlifting's main image problem, said Bowring, is due to a split in his sport in 1989. According to him, lifters banned from BAWLA for drug use set up their own organisation, now called the British Powerlifting Congress, and the general public's perception of his sport is informed

by that organisation (the BPC), which has no drug testing.

Brian Batchelor, an ex-BAWLA lifter and now president of the BPC, said the split was nothing to do with drugs. He maintains it was because he and others lifted for a non-BAWLA association in South Africa, for which he was banned for life. Whichever version is most accurate, both agree drugs have been a problem in lifting.

Batchelor, for his part, admitted there is little testing in the BPC, but said he planned to introduce it as soon as money is available. "We are dealing

with the matter in a different way from BAWLA," he said. "They have got an existing drug problem or else they wouldn't be catching people."

He added: "Our testing will be for illegal substances such as amphetamines and stimulants. We're more concerned with social and health problems."

Batchelor said he used steroids himself for 15 years, supplied by sympathetic doctors or the black market, and he had no ill effects, having liver screens done to ensure there were no problems. Of what he calls "the myth of steroids," he said: "It's a lie. People are not dying from these things."

He added: "These medications help with excessive training work loads and the demands that are placed on them by the general public to perform."

"Everyone wants to see the highest, the fastest and the strongest. And sporting ideals and competing for the sense of fair play all died when millions of pounds got tied up in sport."

People like Dean Bowring, who makes nothing for his efforts, might beg to differ.

ANABOLIC STEROIDS are no longer just the preferred performance-drug of elite athletes and sportsmen. With the growth in the craze for body building, they are now increasingly being used in an almost casual way by young men who just want to look good on the beach or in the disco.

In some areas of the country steroids are thought to be the fastest-growing form of recreational drug abuse. Needle exchange centres, established to promote safer practices by heroin addicts, are now reporting a huge increase in clients whose only drug use is injecting steroids. One estimate says there could be as many as 60,000 users in London alone.

As the market expands - and with it the rewards available - the trade in steroids is increasingly moving away from informal deals in gym changing-rooms and is falling into the hands of established dealers of hard drugs. The first £1m seizure of steroids by police has already happened.

At the same time the age of those using these drugs has steadily declined, with teenagers as young as 15 having been known to try them. Fears of discovery or ridicule, and the continuing reluctance by parts of the medical profession to treat them, mean that many have little or no idea about the health risks they are taking.

These range from kidney and liver disorders to an increase in heart disease and the danger of contracting HIV from shared needles.

A series of surveys of GPs in different areas - from Liverpool to Birmingham, Berkshire and Norfolk - show a consistent level of about a third who say

they have encountered steroid use. "This is not just a local thing," Pat Lenehan, of the Drugs and Sport Information Service in Liverpool, says. "It is now all over the country, and there are no signs of it slowing down."

A study of needle exchanges in Merseyside and Cheshire for the five years to 1996 showed a 250 per cent increase in the number of steroid users reported at the centres. They accounted for almost a quarter of all drug users in these areas while in north Cheshire, this figure rose to more than a third.

Anecdotal evidence from one scheme in Gateshead tells of a staggering 80 per cent of those using the needle exchange as being on steroids.

Ritchie, from nearby County Durham, is typical of the new kind of recreational user. "It's a fashion thing," he said, cheerfully. "I did it to boost my self-confidence. I was sick of being a 10-stone weakling."

He spends about £85 on a five-week course of steroids, which is a cycle he repeats two or three times a year with about three months between each. Used in conjunction with a gym training programme, he managed to put on three stones of muscle in his first six months on the "gear".

Far from apologising for his habit, Ritchie - who is in his mid-twenties with a wife, children and a job - said that the effects had been "brilliant" and saw no problem with boosting his size in this way.

"Why wait?" he said. "Why wait two years to get to a size that could take you six months?"

Ritchie (not his real name) is a client at the Discus clinic (Drugs in Sport Clinic and Users' Support) which is held every week in Chester-le-Street and funded by Durham Health Authority. It runs a series of health checks for users in a policy of "harm reduction", and counts both serious bodybuilders and casual users among its clientele. It now has about 330 people on its books, built up since it was established at the end of 1994, but is still looking to attract more.

"We seem to have got our message across on the body building scene, and we are now trying to get a mixture of other sports to use it," Dr Roh Dawson, the clinic's resident doctor, said. "Already we have boxers, rugby players, kick-boxers and a footballer. It is widespread."

For the competitive bodybuilders, some have moved on to more and more sophisticated cocktails of drugs to supplement their steroid use and maintain an edge over their rivals. Two of the newest and most worrying kinds encountered by Dawson are bordering on the bizarre.

One is Caverject, an impotence drug normally injected into the penis now used to inflate particular muscle groups. The other is Orimeten - a drug used in the treatment of advanced breast cancer cases.

"And that," Dawson says, "is pretty dangerous stuff."

INDEPENDENT SURVEY: USE OF STEROIDS

	percent of competitors admitting to steroid use	percent of competitors who believe steroids are used by others in their sport
Athletics	0	16
Rugby Union	4	31
Rugby League	0	46
Swimming	0	9
Weightlifting*	20	40

\*includes powerlifting

There was no reported use of steroids and less than five per cent suspicion of steroids in respondents from cricket, horse racing, football and tennis

## The human cost of \$1bn illegal market

ANABOLIC STEROIDS were not intended for athletes, but arose as an accidental byproduct of research into male hormones. Since athletes spotted their potential in the 1950s, and they were outlawed, the black market for amateur and professional use is reckoned to be worth more than \$1bn (£625m) annually worldwide.

"Steroids" are simply a general class of chemicals. What athletes want is the "anabolic" element, because that sort of chemical builds muscle by increasing the production of protein, which is the basis of tissue. Former users include Arnold Schwarzenegger, in his early

career as a bodybuilder, the American football player Lyle Alzado (who died of brain cancer), the Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson and, many suspect, the American runner Florence Griffith Joyner, who died suddenly of heart failure in August. In 1994 a survey found over a million Americans had used anabolic steroids, despite it being illegal to own or use them except for medical purposes.

Among 18-34 year-olds, one per cent of the population had used them - though five times more men than women.

Anabolic steroids are synthetic testosterone, the male sex hormone. They were first developed in 1935 by three independent teams of chemists in the Netherlands and Germany, who were researching the synthesis of male hormones, which had only been isolated in 1931.

Early uses included treat-

ment of high blood pressure, arterial disease, anaemia, male impotence, female menopause, and breast cancer. They were also used after World War II, when they were given to survivors of concentration camps to restore lost body mass.

But they have important side effects. Taken during puberty, they actually prevent proper bone growth, stunting the user. In men, the testes shrink and sperm production falls (the World Health Organisation con-

sidered their use as a male contraceptive). Female users develop a deeper voice, and get acne. They cause baldness, dangerously rapid heart rate, kidney stones, jaundice and liver tumours. There are also psychological effects - aggression ("roid rage") or anxiety - and addiction. Withdrawal causes weight loss addicts may remedy by returning to the drug.

Long-term effects include changes to blood pressure and cholesterol levels, with higher chance of heart disease, heart attack and cancer. Alzado blamed his use of steroids in his youth for the brain cancer that killed him.

**TOMORROW**  
EPO: THE NEXT BIG PROBLEM FOR ATHLETICS



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# Woods happy at 'friendlier' atmosphere

**BILL CLINTON** and Nelson Mandela cannot make it but otherwise all the big names have arrived at Royal Melbourne for the third playing of the Presidents Cup. The VIP factor may be down, those outside the fairways featuring former US President George Bush, President Steven Rabinovich of Fiji, and the Australian Prime Minister John Howard, but two of the greatest names in golf, Jack Nicklaus and Peter Thomson, are heading teams packed with talent.

The three-day match, which features America against an international team drawn from outside the United States and Europe, has attracted huge local interest. It is a higher event than the AFL Grand Final, the Australian Grand Prix and the Boxing Day Ashes Test put together.

What is more certain is that this is the strongest collection of players - 14 of the top 20 in the world - ever to be seen on the same course in Australia. But the Prez Cup, as it has inevitably been nicknamed here, unlike its grandfather the Ryder Cup, has yet to attract the attention of the wider sporting public in America, let alone in the non-participating European countries.

And that is something Tiger Woods, the world No 1, whose only previous experience of such international team competition at the professional level was America's defeat at Valderrama last year, finds comforting. "I can tell already the atmosphere is a little different from the Ryder Cup," Woods said. "To me it is more how it

## GOLF

BY ANDY FARRELL  
in Melbourne

should be. The Ryder Cup is treated by the media like life and death but it should just be a friendly match.

This is not the first time Woods has voiced his concerns about the biggest event in the game and when asked if he was looking forward to next year's match with Europe he replied: "N. C." No comment, presumably.

It is said that the game's premier player finds so little inspiration in an event that continues to inspire others, through their own determination and desire rather than any outside agency, to performances of the highest quality, an attitude which is often lacking in other showpiece events in other sports.

Woods showed again his genius in practice when he became the first player ever to drive the green at the 354-yard dog-legged opening hole, the ball lipping out as a startled David Duval attempted to putt.

However, both captains have also - and correctly - tried to play down any talk of a "war". "He's playing in the cricket game," said Thomson, to the bemusement of Nicklaus, whose knowledge of either Steve or Mark Waugh is as great as his local geography. "Isn't the Tasman Sea between here and Tasmania?" Nicklaus had queried.

The President's Cup, unlike the Ryder Cup, is set up more

for the players, and they will each donate a share of the proceeds to the charity of their choice.

Extended daylight allows for five foursomes and fourballs to be played on each of the first two days, meaning only two players sit out a session from each side, but other modifications have the hint of a "made-for-TV" event.

Each player must play each day while "halved" singles have to go to extra holes until one team is assured of victory.

There can be no such thing as a tie in the overall match; should the score be level at 16-16 after all 32 games have finished, one player from each side will be nominated for a sudden-death play-off. Neither do the captains put in their order in isolation from his opposite number. Instead there is the pantomime of one captain choosing a player or pairing, and the other responding before getting first choice in the next match.

Already the speculation is that Woods will play either Greg Norman, who was determined to recover from shoulder surgery in time for the event, or Nick Price, who beat the American in a play-off at Sun City last week. Another match-up might be Fred Couples against Vijay Singh, the pair who were involved in the crucial game two years ago.

The American holed a 35-footer to clinch a one-point victory but irritated his opponent with a jig across the green into the arms of his



Tiger Woods splashes out of a bunker during practice for the Presidents Cup in Melbourne yesterday AP

team-mates when Singh still had a putt to keep the match alive. "It is going to be as close again," said Steve Elkington, one of four Australians on the international team who know the Royal Melbourne layout well. "It will come down to a holed putt or chip. They have a really strong team, but this is the best team we have had and this time we are at home."

**INTERNATIONALS:** S. Appleby (Aus), S. Elkington (Aus), E. Els (SA), C. Francis (Fiji), S. Maruyama (Jap), F. Nodello (NZ), G. Norman (Aus), J. O'Connell (Jap), C. Parry (Aus), N. Price (Zim), M. Singh (Fiji), G. Turner (NZ). **Non-playing captain:** P. Thomson (Aus). **AMERICA:** M. Calcavecchia, P. Couples, O. Desai, J. Heryak, S. Hoch, J. Huzzon, L. Janzen, J. Leonard, D. Love, M. O'Meara, P. Nickelson, T. Woods, Non-playing captain: J. Nicklaus.

# Oxford's times not helped by the tide

## ROWING

BY HUGH MATHESON

OXFORD GAVE away few clues for the 1999 Boat Race when the trial eights raced yesterday with almost no tide to carry them over the four-mile course on London's Tideway. Two crews, "Movers" and "Shakers", got away cleanly on near-perfect water at 46 and 47 strokes to the minute.

It was Henrik Nilsson, Sweden's first Blue a year ago and stroke of Shakers, who dropped into a rhythm most quickly, and while Nick Robinson, stroking Movers, kept up the rate it was Nilsson's crew who showed ahead by six feet at London Rowing Club and a length at the Black Buoy.

Movers, steered by Neil O'Donnell, a winning cox in the reserve Isis crew last year, cut the Fulham bend over the flats and Nilsson's crew, on the inside edge of the stream, crept back in spite of rating three strokes to the minute less than their increasingly rushed opponents. Shortly after the Mile Post both eights were level and although Robinson's crew were fighting the high rate of striking they never looked solid or strong enough to come back on terms.

Once both boats had veered round a wayward cruiser coming toward them at St Paul's, the race turned into a procession. Won by Nilsson in 18min 40sec, five lengths ahead, it offered no comparison with the Cambridge time of 17:11 on a much fuller tide last Monday.

Nilsson's advantage was having the greater power of Andrew Lindsay and Colin van Dingenhausen behind him, as well as a much improved sense of his own rhythm, developed by the coach, Sean Bowden, over the summer.

On this outing Oxford have greater strength throughout the squad but Cambridge have a very tough group at the top and will be well-equipped to defend their sequence of six victories.

# Tyson turns 'Mr Nice' in bid to hype fight



Tyson: 'I'm a good boy'

**LAUGHING OFF** questions about his past misdeeds and vowing to be a "good boy", Mike Tyson was in relaxed and confident mood as he faced a room full of reporters and television cameras to announce he would be back in the ring on 16 January in Las Vegas against Francois Botha, a former International Boxing Federation heavyweight champion.

"I'm sorry, but I've learned my lesson and I won't do that anymore," Tyson, 32, said with a grin when asked about the

**BOXING**

fight on 26 June last year when he twice hit Holyfield's ears. "I'm a very good boy."

After the fight, Tyson was stripped of his licence by the Nevada State Athletic Commission for 15 months as a punishment. In October, the former heavyweight champion convinced the Nevada commission to let him fight again after promising to undergo psychiatric therapy and "absolutely never" do it again. But

commissioners warned him to either behave himself in the future or be thrown out of boxing for good.

Tyson spent most of a raucous press conference yesterday poking fun at his bad-boy image and promoting his fight rather than answering serious questions.

Tyson, who at age 20 in 1986 became the youngest man ever to win the heavyweight title, even stood up for Botha, chiding a man at the press conference who shouted: "He's a

punk!" when the South African was introduced. "Let's be nice to this guy today," Tyson said. "Let's all be nice. For anyone who didn't know, I'm on parole and I'm trying to be nice up here."

But, asked if he would fight Holyfield again or challenge for the heavyweight belt again, he said: "The fact is, if the price is right I'll fight a lion. I'm not here because I've been voted the nicest guy in the country."

And Tyson declined to answer when a reporter asked if he was worried about going back to prison - a reference to Tyson's 1 December "no contest" plea to assaulting two motorists in Maryland after a minor traffic crash. He awaits sentencing in that case, which could affect his parole after spending three years in an Indiana prison for a rape conviction.

Also in attendance at the press conference was the former basketball great Magic Johnson, whose role as Tyson's

adviser helped win over Nevada boxing officials.

Johnson declined to speculate when Tyson would fight for the title but said: "He's still the highest in the world and no one will ever be bigger."

A decision on whether Tyson's probation will be revoked is being delayed until after the fight, his first in more than 17 months.

The judge, Patricia Gifford, has put off the decision until he is sentenced in Maryland, which is scheduled for 5 February.

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**TODAY'S NUMBER**

5,000

The amount in dollars Argentinian club Velez were fined for wearing the wrong shirts after having to borrow kit because they forgot their change strip

**MARKET RASEN**

**HYPERION**

1.00 Sefton Blake 1.30 Mr Busby 2.00 Sillars Stalker 2.30 Fen Terrier 3.00 Jessica One 3.00 Tender Touch

GOING: Soft (Good to Soft in back straight; Heavy in straight on chase course)

Right-handed, sharp, undulating circuit. Run-in of one furlong. Course E. of town on A63. Stakes: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 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# The vain search for effort and commitment

IT SEEMS that the queuing eye of my trade is seldom brought to bear on an issue that the Nottingham Forest manager, Dave Bassett, raised vehemently this week after a defeat at Sheffield Wednesday.

Accepting no blame for the lack of spirit he addressed angrily during the interval, Bassett, when fulfilling an obligation to Sky television, spoke some hard truths about the present generation of professional footballers that do not appeal to hero-worshipping popular prints, and supporters are not inclined to consider.

One of the statements Bassett put forward, to my mind the most important, is that a great deal of nonsense - "crap" as he put it - is spoken

and written about football. I cannot recall exactly how he qualified this, but it was roughly along the lines that strategy and tactics are less significant than attitude. "Managers get too many accolades when the team wins, too much of the blame when things go wrong," he said, adding that "players get managers the sack."

With his club's Premiership status in jeopardy, maybe it is a tactless time for Bassett to be saying this, but it has the unquestionable merit of putting the blame where it often belongs. Under pressure, which can mean anything from a losing streak to matching past achievements, coaches stake hotter and hotter fires in their charges. But where is the pride in an

athlete who needs that sort of stimulation? And the character?

Last week it was suggested to George Graham that he was probably pleased with the effort Tottenham Hotspur had put into the defeat of Liverpool. A wry smile crossed Graham's face. "When you think of what players are paid today, that's the least to be expected of them," he said.

It probably seems to most people that top-class professional footballers, who by definition are supposed to perform at a high standard, who have careers at stake and families to support and egos to bulwark and team-mates to join in a common cause, have enough natural stimulation without the input of coaches



KEN JONES

and managers. That many have not makes a case for looking into their heads.

Probably, Bassett agrees. "We were so sloppy in the first half, so

lacklustre, that I went in and asked how many of them have got the bottle to get us out of the trouble we are in," he said.

The coach builds a team, seeks to bring about technical improvement, individual and collective and motivates. Trouble is - more so now than ever before - not every player can be completely relied on for a maximum effort. "Half an hour had gone before we started to play," Gérard Houllier complained when looking back on Liverpool's defeat at Tottenham.

Houllier could find no obvious explanation for Liverpool's slow start, but it bothered him. "They must play for the whole game," he said.

A legendary manager once said: "If you treat footballers like men, they'll perform like men. If they don't, get rid of them." This was based on a persistently fragile assumption, that of the manager being around longer than contrary players.

Liverpool's problems, compounded by their elimination from the UEFA Cup on Tuesday, stems as much from attitude as errors in recruitment. Liverpool's greatest strength was the affinity between the team and its supporters.

So what are the supporters to make of Michael Owen's statement that his ambitions may have to be fulfilled elsewhere, and the doubts that have grown up about Steve

McManaman's commitment to Anfield?

Doubtless, supporters of Blackburn Rovers were soothed when Roy Hodgson's contract was terminated, but did they ever think to ask questions of the players?

It cannot be imagined that many Blackburn players asked questions of themselves, because self-examination is not in the modern footballer's nature. Encouraged by agents, the characteristic that stands out in many of them is selfishness. That, more or less, is what Bassett was going on about. He knows from the bitter experience of his clan that footballers cannot always be trusted to keep their end of the bargain.

## Anfield's empire reduced to ruins

Liverpool's European exit to Celta Vigo was a sign of changing times on Merseyside. By Guy Hodgson

IT WAS easy to be seduced by the erudite arguments proffered by Gérard Houllier after Liverpool's demise in the UEFA Cup. They were too good for us, he said, and too worldly. Even the crowd, raucously and splendidly supportive at the start, were ready to accept failure.

It was only later that the question "why?" intruded on these resigned, if not only wholly comfortable, thoughts. Yes, Celta Vigo, were far, far better than Liverpool - the 4-1 aggregate was kind on the Merseysiders - but it is an indictment of how standards have free-fallen at Anfield that such a statement should be accepted without rancour. This is a club, after all, which has won four European Cups.

A study of Tuesday's match programme revealed how Celta Vigo's 1-0 win should have been greeted. Only one Spanish team had beaten Liverpool over two legs in Europe, and Athletic Bilbao did so thanks to the toss of a coin in 1968-69; no Spanish team had won at Anfield before; the last European side to defeat Liverpool in both legs was Spartak Moscow in 1992-93.

It should have been a shock but, thanks to the declining expectations at Liverpool and Celta's win over Aston Villa in the previous round, the ground had been prepared. So much for the theory that the Premiership is vying with Italy for the best league in Europe, if not the world.

At least Houllier was not deluded, saying that his side would probably have lost even if Paul Ince, Steve McManaman, Jamie Redknapp and Vegard Heggem had not been suspended. "All we can take from the game is that we have lots of young players who give us hope for the future."

"But hope doesn't make the present. They were better technically and I am disappointed for the 30,000 fans who were here and us gave everything."

As Houllier stressed, it is the

present that is pressing and that gives little hope for encouragement. True, Liverpool were without the suspended four, but it does not say much for the strength of the squad that so many youngsters had to come into the team.

If Manchester United had lost comparable players, for example Ryan Giggs, Roy Keane, Paul Scholes and Denis Irwin, they would still be able to field an all-international midfield. That is the level that Anfield used to, and should, aspire to.

There is even a real danger that Liverpool will not be in Europe next season, because the current plans being contemplated would give England three places in the Champions' League and three in the revamped UEFA Cup. As two of those latter slots will go to the winners of the FA and Worthington Cups, the situation could arrive next May where the lowest team to qualify will be fourth.

Liverpool, ninth in the Premiership with six defeats, would not currently qualify under the old, generous system. It is going to take a sharp upturn in form for them to meet new, probably tighter, criteria.

To be fair to Houllier, he is fully aware of his team's shortcomings and is moving to address them. The most urgent requirement is a centre-back of stature, and Liverpool are anxious to sign Cyril Domoraud from Marseilles for £2m. So anxious, in fact, that they are prepared to let the French Under-21 international stay with his current club until the end of the season - just as long as he puts pen to paper.

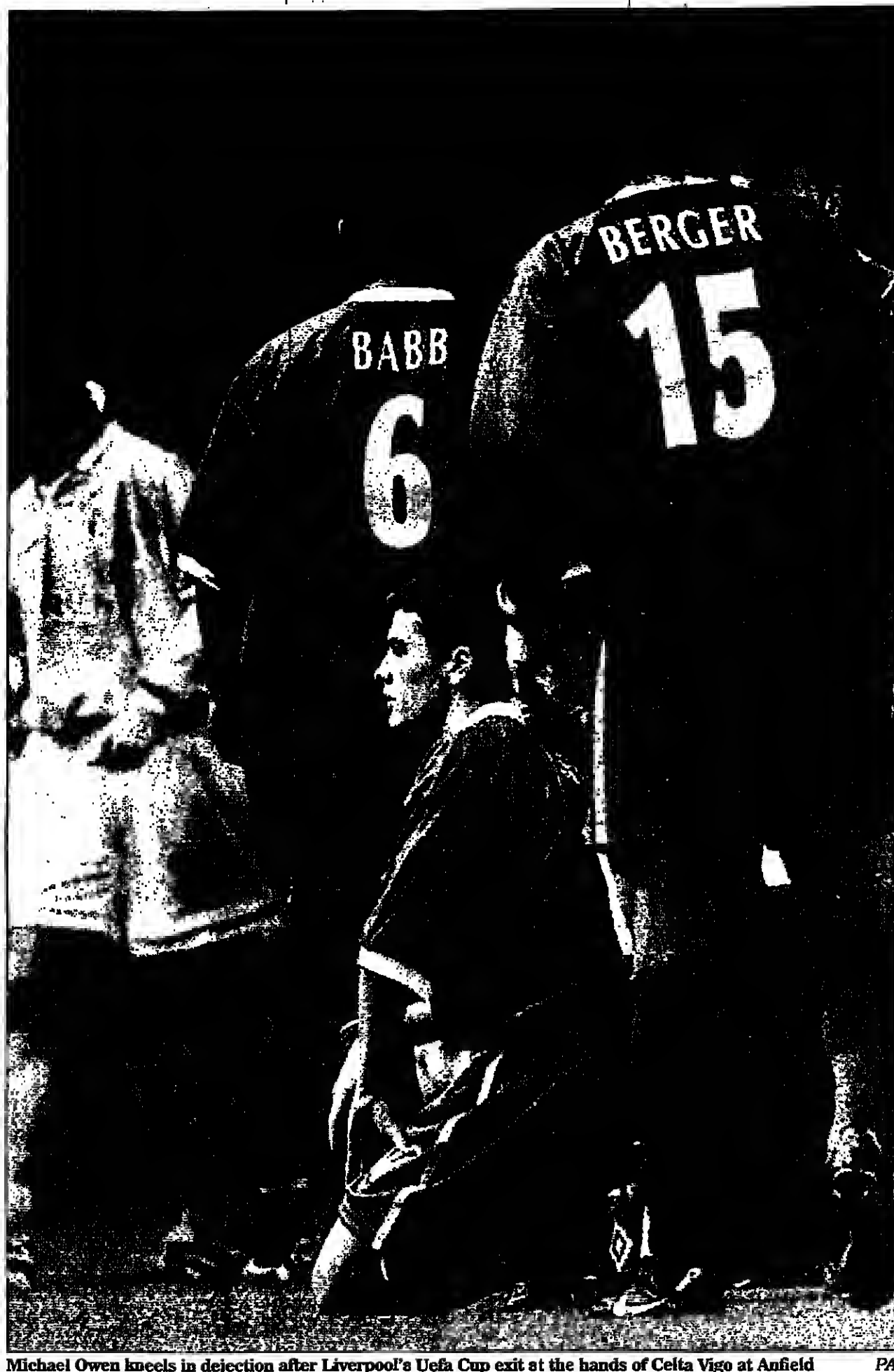
Houllier is also considering an offer to take the Cameroon centre-back Rigobert Song, on trial, while they have been linked in Italian papers with Internazionale's Nigerian defender, Taribo West.

That centre-half problem is easy to see, if not to solve, but the rest of the rebuilding programme will involve difficult decisions.

The first should be an ultimatum to Steve McManaman to either sign a new contract or leave, in the hope that some money can be accrued for a player who can leave for free in the summer. Of course, you cannot compel him to go, but it might provoke some urgency in Barcelona and Real Madrid, who are reported to be interested in signing him.

The second should be the selling of Paul Ince, who is not the force he was and who, at 31, is incapable of lasting 90 minutes on a two-matches-a-week basis. Add a short fuse which cost him his place against Celta Vigo and his assets are being overtaken by his debts.

Take the money - and use it with greater wisdom than Anfield has shown in recent years. Celta are not a rich club and their most expensive signing is Goran Djordjevic, who cost £1.25m 18 months ago. That is a sobering thought for both red and blue persuasions on Merseyside if they win the UEFA Cup this season.



Michael Owen kneels in dejection after Liverpool's Uefa Cup exit at the hands of Celta Vigo at Anfield

## Klos is top of Ibrox wish list

DICK ADVOCAT, the Rangers' manager looks set to strengthen his squad following Tuesday's UEFA Cup defeat by Parma. Stefan Klos, the Borussia Dortmund goalkeeper, and Neil McCann, the Hearts' winger, could both be heading for Ibrox.

However, Rangers will face a fight with Liverpool to secure the services of Klos. The Anfield side, also knocked out of the UEFA Cup last night, are believed to have tabled an offer and Klos is a friend of the Liverpool striker Karl Heinz Riedle, a former team-mate.

Dortmund have indicated they are prepared to release Klos during the winter break in two weeks, but only if they get in a replacement. It is complete change of heart by the club following a court battle in the summer with Klos.

The court ruled that he would have to see out his contract until 30 June and that seemed to have ended his hopes of joining Rangers. Instead, Advocaat signed the Frenchman Lionel Charbonnier, who has been ruled out for the rest of the season. Advocaat is still pursuing Klos and Rangers were holding talks with him yesterday. Dortmund insist Klos be released until they find someone of similar quality - Milan's Jens Lehmann is their target.

Advocaat has been impressed by the progress of McCann, one of the old school of Scottish wingers. He could pose a threat to Andrei Kanchelskis, who has been a big disappointment since arriving for

a club record £5.5m in the summer from Fiorentina. Kanchelskis was omitted from the side that lost 3-1 to Parma (4-1 on aggregate), with Advocaat saying the Russian winger had a cold.

Hearts were last night insisting that McCann was still a Tynecastle player, despite reports suggesting he had already completed a medical with Rangers. The Ibrox club failed with an initial reported £600,000 bid, but are believed to have increased their offer substantially to activate the get-out clause in McCann's contract.

Douglas Dalgleish, a Hearts spokesman, said: "There have been further approaches from Rangers and we have received a further bid, we can't deny that. It has been discussed but nothing has been agreed as yet. As things stand, he is still a Hearts player." McCann was declared unfit for Hearts' Premier League game at St Johnstone tonight with a stomach virus.

Rangers meet their title rivals, Kilmarnock, at Ibrox on Saturday still bitter after the defeat in Parma in a game which swung away from them following the sending-off of Sergio Porrini. Porrini was still furious over the incident, which involved Enrico Chiesa, the Parma striker. Porrini was dismissed for lunging at Juan Sebastian Veron, Parma's brilliant Argentinian midfielder.

Chiesa said: "Sergio thought I had elbowed him. It was just a collision and perhaps because of this he got the second yellow card. We certainly made good use of the extra man."

## Fans furious as Hibs board rebuffs offer

HIBERNIAN SUPPORTERS have demanded answers from the Easter Road board on why they rejected Brian Kennedy's third takeover bid after the double glazing tycoon revealed a proposed £4m investment in the Scottish club.

Kennedy went public with his business plan - which included at least £1m a year being made available for players - for the Edinburgh club yesterday as Hibs' rejection of his latest offer last week prompted the Wetherhead chairman to dispense with confidentiality.

Kennedy wanted to invest £4m in exchange for controlling ownership, and promised in return to start redeveloping Easter Road at the end of next season and develop new training and health club facilities.

leaving fans' pressure group, Hands on Hibs, bewildered over the rejection. "How can the Board reject his bid? They must tell the supporters why they have rejected it and how they intend to at least match his level of investment," their spokesman, Alex Morton, said.

Kennedy rejected accusations that the takeover plans would distract from Hibs' promotion campaign. "That is nonsensical and inaccurate," he said. "I have had feedback from several quarters that the prospect of substantial funds invested into the club is a boost to the players and reinforces the fact that they are playing for one of the biggest clubs in Scotland."

## British clubs fail as Italy, Spain and France confirm superiority

BRITAIN LOOKED on with envy as France, Italy and Spain underlined their superiority in European football by booking all eight places in the UEFA Cup quarter-finals on Tuesday.

Parma, winners in 1995, knocked out Rangers and will be joined by fellow Italians Bologna and Roma - who beat Leeds in the previous round - in the last eight.

Celta Vigo knocked Liverpool out of the competition, and their countrymen, Atletico Madrid, are also through. France claimed the remaining three berths.

Atletico Madrid, trailing 2-1 from the first leg, needed goals from Santi and Jose Mari

Romero to kill off Real Sociedad after a double strike from Vladimir Jugovic, their Yugoslav international, had forced the game into extra-time. The capital club won 4-1 on the night and 5-3 on aggregate. Marseilles, Lyons and Bordeaux made this year the best yet for France in the UEFA Cup, which no French club has ever won.

A second-half goal from substitute Titi Camara, deputising for Fabrizio Ravanelli, the former Middlesbrough striker, enabled Marseilles to edge out their Mediterranean rivals Monaco 3-2 on aggregate at a seething Stade Velodrome, where Monaco have not won for 19 years.

Marseilles would have won by more than 3-3 on aggregate had Fabien Barthez, the France goalkeeper, not been in fine form for the visitors, who had their Bosnian international defender Muhamed Konjic sent off in the 38th minute for bringing down Christophe Dugarry.

Lyons won a pulsating encounter 4-3 at Bruges in Belgium with Alain Cavaglia hitting a hat-trick to see his side through 5-3 overall. Bordeaux also went through, but only on away goals after a goalless draw against Grasshopper Zurich followed a 3-3 draw in Switzerland.

Roma, who squeezed past Leeds 1-0 in the last round,

courted disaster before drawing 2-2 at FC Zurich to go through 3-2.

The Italians took a 13th-minute lead through Marco Delvecchio, but flirted dangerously with an unexpected exit as they survived a missed Swiss penalty and two second-half goals from the South African striker Shaun Bartlett. However, Roma's 22-year-old striker, Francesco Toti, came to the rescue with an injury-time free-kick.

Bologna could afford a 1-0 defeat at Spain's Real Betis having cantered through the first match 4-1. Betis centre-forward Oll Alvarez scored the only goal of the night.

### A POWER IN DECLINE: 25 YEARS OF LIVERPOOL TROPHIES

1972-73: Uefa Cup, Football League First Division.  
73-74: FA Cup.  
74-75: None.  
75-76: Uefa Cup, First Division.  
76-77: European Cup, European Super Cup, First Division.  
77-78: European Cup.  
78-79: First Division.  
79-80: First Division.  
80-81: European Cup, League Cup.  
81-82: First Division, League Cup.  
82-83: First Division, League Cup.  
83-84: European Cup, First Division, League Cup.

84-85: None.  
85-86: First Division, FA Cup.  
86-87: None.  
87-88: First Division.  
88-89: FA Cup.  
89-90: First Division.  
90-91: None.  
91-92: FA Cup.  
92-93: None.  
93-94: None.  
94-95: League Cup.  
95-96: None.  
96-97: None.  
97-98: None.  
98-99: -

### FOOTBALL RESULTS

#### YESTERDAY

PONTINS LEAGUE Second Division: Wrexham 3 Sheff Utd 2; Lincoln 2 Rotherham 1. Postponed: Huddersfield v Scarborough. Third Division: Walsall 5 Wigan 0. Postponed: Chesterfield v Hull; Darlington v Rochdale.  
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Brentford 0 Brighton 1; Colchester 3 Northampton 2; West Ham 4 Oxford 0. Postponed: Gillingham v Reading.  
UNILEVER SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Postponed: Popham v Burgess Hill Town.  
ASIAN GAMES (Bangkok) Second round: Group 1: North Korea 1 Turkmenistan 1; Uzbekistan 2 India 0. Group 2: South Korea 2 United Arab Emirates 1; Japan 2 Kuwait 1.

#### TUESDAY

UEFA Cup Third Round Second Leg: Liverpool 0 Celta Vigo (Sp) 1 (Rivaldo 57) (Celta Vigo win 4-1 on aggregate); Lyons (Fr) 4 (Cavaglia 16, 55, 72, Domoraud 76) Club Brugge (Bel) 3 (De Bruil 63, De Cock 68, And 73) (agg: 5-3); Real Betis (Sp) 1 (Alvarez 3) Bologna (It) 0 (agg: 2-4); Bordeaux (Fr) 0 Grasshopper Zurich (Swi) 0 (agg: 3-3); Bordeaux win on away goals.  
NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE First Division: Crawley 1 (Anthony 64) West Bromwich Albion 1 (Hughes pen 35); Crystal Palace 1 (Jansen 68) Tranmere 1 (Thompson 66). Second Division: York 2 (Jolson 16, Holmes og 49) Lincoln City 1 (Holmes 22).  
SCOTTISH LEAGUE First Division: Raith 1 (Britten 80) Hamilton 1 (Lal 10).  
TENNANTS SCOTTISH CUP First round replay: Livingston 3 (Wilson og 14, Fleming 10, Bingham 90) Dumbarton 0.  
AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD Northern Section First Round: Blackpool 0 Stoke 2; Burnley 0 Preston 1; Chester 1 Hartlepool 2 (Hartlepool win on golden goal rule); Macclesfield 0 Wrexham 1; Man City 1 Mansfield 2; Oldham 0 Darlington 1 (Darlington win on golden goal rule); Rotherham 0 Wigan 3. Postponed: Notts County v Hull.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division: Postponed: Cambridge City v Burton Albion. First round second leg: Crawley 5 Erit 0; Belvedere 0 (Crawley win 6-0 on aggregate); Redditch 2 Evesham 1 (agg: 6-2); Stafford Rangers 3 Rye House 2 (agg: 4-5); Stourbridge 3 Slough 1 (agg: 7-3).  
POSTPONED: Baldock v Rye House; Gresley Rovers v Tamworth; King's Lynn v Boston Utd.  
RYMAN LEAGUE First Division: Grays 1 Uxbridge 0; Wembley 0 Brimsford 3. Second Division: Bracknell 1 Bedford Town 2; Marlow 0 Horsham 0. Thame 1 Barking 0. Third Division: Epsom & Ewell 1 Ware 2; Kingsbury 1 Chesham 2. Fourth Division: Yeading 2 Wellesbourne 5. Vandonia Trophy First Division: East Thurrock 2 Hartford 3; Leighton 2 Northwood; Weymouth 3 Witham 1.

WINSTON LEAD KENT LEAGUE Premier Division: Ramsgate 7 Canterbury 0. Sheppey 1 Cray Wanderers 1. Premier Division Cup second round replay: Hythe 3 Faversham 1.  
UNILEVER SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Horsham YMCA 3 Portsmouth 1; Shoreham 5 Selley 3. Postponed: Chichester v Wick; Hailsham v Eastbourne.

Town: Littlehampton v Broadbridge Heath; Saltdan v East Preston.  
SCHEFFIELD DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Backwell 1 Alsop Sutton 1; Old Down 4 Brinsford 1.  
NORTH WESTERN TRANS LEAGUE Floodlit Trophy Second round: Kidsgrove 2 Leek 0; Mossley 0 Fleetwood 0. First Division: Newcastle Town 3 Shelmersdale 2 (net).  
JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Falkenham 5 Gortonston 0; Harwich 0 Parkeston 0 Sudbury Wanderers 0. Midland 2 Ipswich Wanderers 1. Newmarket 0 Soham 3; Sudbury Town 3 Stowmarket 1. Postponed: Weston League Cup second round: Great Yarmouth vs Norwich Utd v Diss; Histon v Weymouth.

ADVOYT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE First Division: Postponed: South Shields v Newcastle Blue Star; Tow Law v Shildon.  
PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Everton 0 Aston Villa 0 (at Widnes R.F.C.). First Division: Coventry 0 Barnsley 0; Sheffield Wednesday 1 Wolverhampton Wanderers 2.  
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Tottenham Hotspur 0 Watford 0. Postponed: West Ham v Oxford Utd.  
GERMAN LEAGUE: Borussia Mönchengladbach 0 Werder Bremen 1 (Bode 23).









# SPORT

LIFTING THE DRUGS STIGMA P27 • WOODS AND THE PRESIDENT'S MEN P29

## Australia in shock at Waugh and Warne

THE ENGLAND captain, Alec Stewart, last night stepped into the hating affair that has shocked the Australian Cricket Board's decision to keep the matter secret for the last three years.

The Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne and middle-order batsman Mark Waugh yesterday admitted being paid by an Indian bookmaker for giving him details of pitch and weather conditions during the 1994 tour to Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Their actions brought them £7,200 in fines from the ACB at the time but the issue only came to the surface late on Tuesday night.

Now the revelations could have a serious effect on the future of both cricketers with some experts calling for them to be banned while others have been highly critical of the ACB.

Yet Stewart, preparing for the start of the third Ashes test in Adelaide tomorrow, said: "They [the ACB] are not going to publish everything that happens. Some things are public and some things are private."

And, responding to a claim in an Australian newspaper that similar things happened in every dressing-room, he stressed: "I have played 80-odd Test matches for England and I've never seen anything like that."

As the news conference to discuss England's thinking ahead of the third Test at Adelaide on Friday became increasingly dominated by the events, Stewart joked: "I've just offered Shane Warne two beers if he will tell me about the wicket here. This isn't going to affect us at all - we've come

CRICKET  
By Nick Rippington

here to win a Test and square the series and we will prepare in exactly the same way as we have done before."

The former Australia captain Neil Harvey saw little humour in the situation and was not prepared to be so forgiving. He called for two-year bans for Warne and Waugh and said: "I never ever thought I would see an Australian cricketer slump to these depths. It really hurts me."

Another ex-Australian captain, Richie Benaud, said he was appalled by the actions of the ACB. "One of the most appalling things is that it's been covered up for so long," said Benaud. "I would regard the ACB as being glaringly at fault if they kept it a secret."

Even the Australian Prime Minister, John Howard, joined in the condemnation of Warne and Waugh. "Australians love their cricket and anything that looks as though it's knocking cricket off its pedestal is something that's going to deeply disturb Australians," he said. "These things are probably best dealt with more openly and more candidly."

The shockwaves are already being felt by the two players. Warne is in danger of losing a £500,000-a-year sponsorship deal with the American sports-wear giant, Nike, who are concerned by their association with a player linked with the murky world of illegal betting.

Warne has been the face of Nike in Australia for the last

three years, but a company spokesman confirmed that they were considering their position and would release a statement today.

Nike's concern about the adverse publicity which may be generated by their partnership with Warne is matched by that of the ACB chief executive, Malcolm Speed, who conceded at a highly charged press conference that the controversy may have damaged the world-wide standing of Australian cricket.

The former Australian captain Kim Hughes has insisted Warne's involvement in the matter will damage his chances of ever captaining his country. "It is different to match-fixing but it's still a shock," he said. "Two blokes who have got tremendous records are now tarnished. It's very disappointing for the game."

The former Kent cricketer Graham Cowdrey, who works for the spread betting firm, City Index, said: "In my 15 years of playing first-class cricket in England, I never came across anything like this. For six years, I wrote on cricket betting for the *Racing Post* but I never said anything about games I was involved with and I certainly never advised anyone to bet heavily on Kent when I did my pre-season previews."

The England chairman of selectors, David Graveney, admitted he was surprised by the situation but felt it had been dealt with correctly.

"I certainly do not believe cricket has an endemic problem with betting," he added.

Inquiry demanded, page 26  
West Indies test, page 31



Warren Hegg and John Crawley (right) wait their turn at a nets session before tonight's third Test in Adelaide

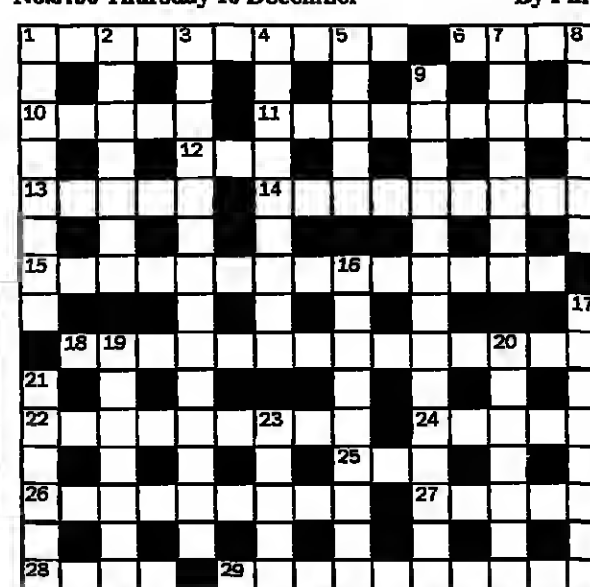
Reuters

### THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD

No.3790 Thursday 10 December

By Phi

Wednesday's solution



#### ACROSS

- 1 One isn't supposed to get the point in taking such steps (5-5)
- 6 Curious opening for statistician in probability (4)
- 10 Plans I had the rest cut short (5)
- 11 Lotions are mostly formulated by a hairdresser? (9)
- 12 Some cricketer riled slip (3)
- 13 Scare almost everyone with a gun? (5)
- 14 Exceeded budget, hence lots of deliveries held up (9)
- 15 Hold a golf tournament, careful to be on-parlisan (4,2,4,4)
- 18 Dubious behaviour in £500 deal? (6,8)
- 22 The same in dialect requires translation (9)

#### DOWN

- 1 Breezes rising round long island (3,5)
- 2 Love's normal without one being too old (7)
- 3 Mike isn't aboard - possibly as a result of this? (14)
- 4 Observational science showing when to attempt orbiting circling roon (9)
- 5 Preserve old English boat (5)
- 7 Make a splash about opening of resplendent cinema (8-2)
- 8 Archduke Stradivarius' primacy with a stringed instrument (6)
- 9 Inflammation sadly makes one hideous, nothing less (10,4)
- 16 Boisterous male animal that is caught in net, entangled (6)
- 17 First of songs penned by Buddy, obscure songwriter (8)
- 19 A third of the basic syllabus? University's trying (7)
- 20 Perfect example of abridged large-scale book (7)
- 21 Much of rustic drink leads to evidence of drunkenness (6)
- 23 Swimming stroke must be crude in small quantity of water! (5)

## Viduka pledges to play for Celtic

### FOOTBALL

By Tommy Staniforth

CELTIC'S RUNAWAY striker Marko Viduka last night begged to be left alone to get on with his recuperation from stress, after confirming his intention to restart his aborted career in Glasgow.

The 23-year-old Australian headed home to his family in Melbourne yesterday after discussions with the Parkhead managing director Fergus McCann, his advisors IMG and his former club Croatia Zagreb.

Viduka is not expected to return to Scotland until the new year after fleeing to Zagreb on Sunday, complaining of depression just five days after joining the reigning champions.

The complicated payment of his £3m transfer fee - understood to include a substantial figure to the player - appears to remain unresolved, with McCann asking for Fifa assistance in the matter.

McCann and Eric Riley, Celtic's financial director, are believed to favour an agreement that withholds the payment due to Viduka pending his return, while Zagreb are expecting their instalment by the end of the week.

In a joint statement by the player and McCann last night, Viduka pleaded for sympathy for his plight and vehemently denied his actions were linked in any way to the alleged financial shortfall to him.

"Of course I regret that my intention to play for Celtic has not yet been fulfilled," he said. "I do appreciate the club's un-

derstanding. All I want right now is to be left alone to recover from the stress of my last few months in Zagreb.

"I want to play football again soon, and when I am ready, I want it to be for Celtic. I want to make it absolutely clear that as far as I am concerned this is not about money. My only concern is getting back to total fitness and honouring my commitments. I hope people realise that I have been honest and up front, I am not the sort of guy to try and hide my feelings."

McCann, who flew to Zagreb yesterday in an attempt to rescue his investment in Viduka, declared himself satisfied with the agreement reached over the player in his present state of unfitness.

"The Zagreb officials recognised that the purpose of the transfer - for Celtic to obtain the player, ready, willing and able to play - had not been achieved," he said. "We are hopeful that with their understanding and co-operation, the matter can be resolved effectively and amicably."

"We also hope that the assistance and advice of the football bodies, principally Fifa, will be available to deal with this situation fairly, as necessary. The player and his representatives have been very co-operative and we appreciate his difficult position."

Whether that involves the full transfer of Viduka's fee at the present time remains unclear, although a Zagreb spokesman, Goran Bradic, earlier confirmed that his club are expecting an instalment in the next few days.

"We are expecting payment from Celtic at the end of this week," he said. "We were never worried because the law is on our side. Celtic must pay and they said they will."

Meanwhile, the Scotland striker Ally McCoist last night accused Aberdeen's under-achievers of failing their former manager, after Alex Miller became the latest man to vacate the Pittodrie job.

The Kilmarnock player laid the blame for Miller's demise firmly at the feet of the Aberdeen players, after learning that Craig Brown's Scotland No 2 was on his way out of the door after barely a year in the job.

McCoist and his team-mates helped seal Miller's fate on Saturday by humbling woeful Aberdeen 4-0 at Rugby Park. "It was a poor performance on Saturday and they haven't been playing very well at all lately," said McCoist.

"But the players have got to take a good look at themselves because they have really under-achieved for the last few years. They have some real quality players up there and they should be doing better than they are."

Viduka picture, page 31

"For me, there will always be five Christmas stars"



# THURSDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

**When David Trimble and John Hume receive their Nobel Peace prizes today, many think another politician should join them on stage. But who? Gerry Adams? Mo Mowlam? Tony Blair? Bertie Ahern? Conflicting attitudes to the award in Ulster show that lasting peace is a long way off**



Kelvin Boyes

## The prize fighters

**M**y political career has had a lot of downs as well as the occasional up," David Trimble mused the other day. "And, actually, I think that's a good thing - it's important for politicians to have

own failure as well as success. I think those who have not experienced failure are then less able to cope with problems when they arise."

The words of the Ulster Unionist leader said much, not only about his own career but about the general course of the peace process. It has been a rollercoaster - a white-knuckle ride, as he has described it - replete with violent death, long periods of stalemate and occasional exhilarating breakthroughs. And both David Trimble and John Hume will be only too well aware, as they step on to the Oslo stage today to receive their Nobel Peace prizes, that it is not over yet. Failure, or at least severe setbacks, remain real possibilities, and continuing political controversy is a certainty.

The Nobel Committee, in making the award in the form it did, clearly wished not only to mark the achievements of the peace process but also to hearten and inspire all the disparate elements to keep working for its eventual success. So far, however, it has had no such effect.

The peace process is currently in difficulties, the irony being that the business of negotiation and movement is actually being held up as various party leaders travelled this week first to the US to receive other awards, and then as Messrs Trimble and Hume went on to Norway.

They left behind them in Belfast a process that is if not in actual crisis, then indisputably in the doldrums. The actual Nobel ceremony may somehow produce a surge of momentum, but if there is a Nobel spirit last week's difficulties show that it has yet to infuse Belfast's political circles.

This is partly due to the fact that the awarding of the prize produced very different reactions within the two communities, nationalist and Unionist. There was certainly an element of celebration, particularly on the nationalist side, but for many Unionists the news was received with caution and even suspicion. On the nationalist side, John Hume's award was generally regarded as warmly deserved recognition for a three-decade career based on a non-violent search for accommodation. There is now an expectation that he will pull back from the front line of politics, having named his deputy, Seamus Mallon, as deputy to David Trimble in the planned new administration.

The prize thus had the appearance of acknowledging a long and distinguished career, the crowning achievement of which was Mr Hume's role in mapping out the peace process which produced the Good Friday agreement. The award will take its place in his Donegal home with the dozens of tributes he has acquired over the years in the form of scrolls, citations, honorary degrees and doctorates.

These are both an indication of his high international standing and a measure of how successfully he has marshalled and deployed world opinion in support of his goals. They are a visible sign of the network of powerful friends, allies and admirers who helped him make it all possible.

The only real argument to be heard going on among some nationalists, and especially among republicans, is whether Gerry Adams should have

received a share of the prize as well as, or indeed instead of, David Trimble. Sinn Féin supporters would contend that Mr Adams helped launch the peace process bandwagon while Mr Trimble only recently and reluctantly clambered on board.

But even among those nationalists who believe that Mr Adams is leading his people on a laudable migration from violence to politics, the prevailing feeling seems to be that it is too soon to reward an odyssey which is as yet unfinished. Besides, the feeling goes, putting Mr Adams on the Nobel ticket would have destroyed its symmetry and balance and, disastrously, could even have led to Mr Trimble refusing the honour.

Nationalists have also been debating whether David Trimble deserves his honour. One faction thinks he has not earned it while another endorses the view of the columnist who wrote: "Credit where credit is due; having been pulled screaming and protesting into the peace process, Trimble has put his head on the political block." Another section, perhaps the largest, agrees with the Nobel laureate Seamus Heaney, who gracefully commended the Unionist leader for having "the intellectual clarity and political courage to know that 1998 was the time to move Unionism towards an accommodation".

Viewed from a Unionist perspective, however, all this looks very different. Just as Unionism remains deeply divided about the Good Friday agreement and the peace process, so too is it divided over the Nobel prize. Many regard it as a mixed blessing, and indeed quite a few see it as no blessing at all.

In the past, international recognition has been the preserve of John Hume and sometimes of Gerry Adams: Ulster Protestants have grown accustomed to being viewed as the bad guys, and to watching their opponents being feted abroad. International recognition is such an unusual phenomenon for Unionists that when the Nobel

landed in Belfast many regarded it as some sort of Trojan horse.

So far it has been of no obvious benefit to David Trimble in his daily struggles with the Rev Ian Paisley and the sizeable faction in his own party which opposes the Good Friday accord. In anti-agreement quarters it is projected as clear evidence of a sell-out. Mr Paisley's deputy, Peter Robinson, acidly described it as "a vivid example of the rewards offered to those who are prepared to jettison principle and reward terrorists. Better by far to be scorned by the world."

Mr Trimble may well echo the sentiment of Shimon Peres, who after winning the Peace prize with

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK

Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat in 1994, noted: "It is not enough to negotiate with your enemy. You also have to negotiate with your own people and that can be the most difficult of all." The fate of Rabin, and the present problems besetting the Middle East peace process, present a stark illustration of the fact that the Nobel prize brings with it no guarantee of success.

Within a divided Unionism, in other words, the whole thing has seemed problematic rather than a help. At the Ulster Unionist party conference, held a week after the announcement, the prize was barely mentioned. More recently, Mr Trimble noted: "In certain sections of the Unionist community people have felt uncertain, uneasy about the developments, worried about whether they will be for real, whether they really will deliver what they promise or whether it's all simply a con job. It [the prize] doesn't change anything, except it changes the atmosphere and it generates confidence and I think people feel easier with things as a result."

It will, however, take some time for traditionally xenophobic Protestants to become accustomed to viewing the international community as friendly, or even neutral, rather than as pro-Irish nationalist. But some of the Good Friday agreement's more far-sighted architects fervently hope that the accord, together with gestures such as the Peace prize, will offer new horizons and new perspectives on the outside world.

Many will regret, even as they congratulate the prize-winners, that the work of others involved in the peace process will not go down on the Nobel list. George Mitchell, the former US senator who chaired the talks with sometimes superhuman patience, is often mentioned as a possible recipient; so too are Tony Blair, Mo Mowlam, the Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern and various others.

In the meantime, at the mundane level of everyday politics, the daily and of late unproductive slog continues. Last week Tony Blair thought he had set up another increment of progress, only to have the deal fall apart within hours of his departure.

Arms decommissioning is as difficult and dangerous an issue as ever. Last week's exercise was intended to clear the decks for a new assault on the problem by dealing with the less highly charged issues of how many new government departments and cross-border bodies there should be.

These are important but essentially administrative details which a modicum of horse-trading should have settled. Most sides thought it would be good to have some progress to show, before the Nobel presentation and the Christmas recess but, in the event, a general Unionist trepidation about the pace and direction of events prevented even this modest advance.

This raised several disturbing points. For one thing, Mr Trimble seems to have decided to proceed only at the speed of the slowest ships in the

Unionist convoy, which is to say that he will be governed largely by the most nervous of his assembly backbenchers.

For another, Mr Blair's authority was undermined, at least temporarily. The moment seemed right for progress and the prime ministerial presence has often been enough, at strategic points, to help bring about movement. But last week the Blair touch did not work as envisaged: he will be reviewing what went wrong and attempting to ensure it does not happen again.

In Oslo today the air will be filled with high-minded rhetoric, but back in Belfast last week's setback has amply replenished the old reservoirs of mistrust and suspicion. No solution is in sight to the years-old decommissioning problem: Mr Trimble and Mr Mallon are not getting on; tensions abound; trust is in short supply.

Yet for all that, the overall mood among both the politicians and the public at large contains much more hope than dismay. Although no one has been able to show just how the decommissioning issue can be resolved, there is nevertheless a widespread expectation that it somehow will be.

The Nobel prize has had no appreciable effect on the political classes, and has not created goodwill where until now none existed. To many members of the general public, however, it has great meaning as an award which reflects their profoundly held aspiration for peace.

If the present drama should escalate into crisis, it is they who will probably rescue the peace process from collapse. As voters, they of course care about the fortunes of the parties they support; but as citizens they put the preservation of peace far above party advantage. If need be, they will be there to give their representatives the same message as that of the Nobel Committee: that from now on failure is no longer an option.

**INSIDE**

Letters 2  
Leaders and comment 3-5  
Obituaries 6-7

Features 8  
Arts 9  
Film 10-11

Fast Track 13  
Law 14  
Listings 15-16

Satellite 17  
Radio 17  
Today's TV 18

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## Witness to tyranny

Sir: I am a Chilean refugee and a British citizen since 1993. Since Pinochet was arrested I have experienced a range of emotions: sadness, jubilation, astonishment, homesickness, and impotence. I realised I have suppressed all these feelings for a long time, and I have revived the pain and injustice I suffered when I was expecting my first son.

In May 1975, I was arrested following the arrest of my husband (then, my boyfriend). I was three months pregnant. I was blind folded and taken to a secret detention camp. We got married in Tres Alamos, a detention camp, on 26 June 1975. Of course we didn't have a celebration. Another young political detainee, who also acted as a witness at our wedding, gave a box of chocolate as a present. In a cold and damp room, we held hands very tightly. I cannot remember what we said to each other. My emotions have become uncontrollable and I have silently started to cry once again.

As my son put it to me on Sunday, I only have two wishes: "A white Christmas and Pinochet to be extradited to Spain."

PATRICIA JELIC  
Wolverhampton, West Midlands

Sir: I wonder if other readers were embarrassed by the naïveté and parochialism of Hilary Walker's letter (8 December) suggesting that Mr Straw should make peace with the Chilean authorities so the Scouts' Jamboree should not be disrupted.

As an ex-scout who attended a jamboree, a youth leader, and a teacher I was genuinely shocked that a responsible adult could make such a misguided appeal.

Mr Straw's decision on the extradition of General Pinochet will have a profound effect on how abuse of human rights is viewed and dealt with around the world. The ex-dictator is accused of instigating the torture and murder of innocent people. To imply that this should be put aside so some youngsters can go on a camping holiday is offensive.

I hope the Jamboree goes ahead unimpeded and youngsters return home with a strong sense of being part of a world community. But mainly I hope their experience, whether they can attend or not, gives them a better perspective of what is really important.

PATRICK IMRIE  
Wallington, Surrey

## New life for animals

Sir: Your leading article of 7 December ("Animal welfare is a good cause, but it needs no martyrs") is to be welcomed in that it reminds us of just how specific was Labour's pledge on a Royal Commission into the effectiveness and justification of animal experimentation. The fact that "New Labour: New Life for Animals" was extensively quoted by Labour candidates in pre-election leafletting also supports the reasonable interpretation that the detailed promises it contains had the weight of a full statement of policy, alluded to in the manifesto itself only in passing because of lack of space. All of which justifies the term "betrayal", best encapsulated in the slogan now frequent in animal welfare protests: "Labour stole my vote."

Unfortunately your reference to the argument that the lives of scientists who use animals to alleviate human suffering are less important than those of mice is the kind of emotive hyperbole of which one expects the animal rights lobby to be accused. Certainly, it is a view never espoused by Barry Horne, who has consistently advocated non-violence against people.

Almost everyone who has worked in university research will expect that a properly conducted Royal Commission would bring to light the huge proportion of animal experiments that have no transferable benefit in the treatment of life-threatening and painful diseases. Again and again experiments are conducted because researchers are locked

into procedures that have become relevant only to the criteria for acquiring external funding and academic promotion.

The freeing of the scientific imagination that would result even from a shift in the balance of funding towards alternatives to animal experiments is a genuinely exciting prospect, both in terms of the elevation of animal suffering and the improvement of public health.

Dr LAWRENCE WATSON  
Durham

Sir: In discussing the fate of Barry Horne, your leading article begins from a position which assumes that the use of animals in medical and other experimentation is justified by benefits to human beings. There have clearly been major benefits from such work (but, equally, disasters), and it may be that your assumption is correct.

However, the mere fact that benefits are derived from some activity is not necessarily a measure of its morality. Hundreds of thousands benefited from the slave trade. In the same way that our view of other human beings was changed by the arguments of abolitionists, so, too, our view of other animals has been changed in recent years by the arguments of philosophers who have raised the primary moral question as to whether or not human beings ought to continue to exploit other species in experimentation.

This question needs to be addressed and a Royal Commission may be a way of opening serious public debate. Not to have such a debate will, as you point out, open the way to extremists.

STANLEY TYRER  
Bury, Lancashire

Sir: Opinions are divided over the merit of Barry Horne's hunger strike. I wonder, however, what this strategy could possibly achieve. The animal rights movement will claim martyrdom but what will his actions do for medical research?

It was horrifying to read in national newspapers the names of

individual scientists who have been threatened with assassination. They are among a small group of scientists who are brave enough to speak out on behalf of the medical and scientific communities about their research and the important contribution that animals make in the advancement of medicine. What right, therefore, does anyone have to threaten with death those whose ambition it is to help relieve human suffering? The appalling behaviour demonstrated by animal rights extremists is nothing less than terrorism. How can it be tolerated?

The use of animals in medical research is a major issue of concern to the public as well as doctors and scientists. In the UK, where this level of concern has led to the most stringent laboratory regulations in the world, there is still scope for public debate.

Threats of death, however, surely serve only to discourage doctors and scientists from speaking publicly. Can we blame them? Such violent tactics must be condemned in order that proper discussion can take place and that, in the long term, choices can be made about the future of medical research based on reasoned arguments and hard facts.

ELAINE JAMES  
London SW11

Sir: If the Secretary of State for International Development sponsored students from China to study for degrees in technology at British universities, then this would not only be a form of international development, but would also facilitate trade with British companies and industries generally ("Short: I'm no saleswoman", 7 December).

ALEXANDER CHABLO  
Manchester

Sir: Now that our annual contribution to unnecessary global warming is in operation,

Sir: Anne McElvoy ("Animals have no rights, but we still have duties towards them", 9 December) makes a faint effort to understand that animals deserve better treatment at our hands, but misses the point. Rights are not something that are in the exclusive gift of the human race, to be bestowed as our judgement sees fit. People with a wider vision cannot avoid the understanding that it is the birthright of animals to live free of persecution or molestation at the hands of a species that has the intellect to know what it is doing.

Ms McElvoy is misquoting Ralph Hodgson (1871-1962) and his superb poem, "The Bells of Heaven". Correctly quoted, it is: "I would ring the bells of Heaven The wildest peal for years, If I could lose my senses, And people came to theirs, And he and they together Kneel down with angry prayers For tamed and shabby tigers And dancing dogs and bears, And wretched, blind, pit ponies, And little hunted hares."

Now there was a man ahead of his time. PENNY LITTLE  
Great Haseley, Oxfordshire

Sir: Anne McElvoy is quite wrong to assert that animals do not have rights. For domestic, captive and

farm animals the right not to be caused "unnecessary suffering" was enshrined in British law as long ago as 1911.

It is not necessary to be able to claim rights in order to be protected by having them. KEVIN SAUNDERS  
Green Party Animal Rights Working Group  
London N19

## Lords a-leaping

Sir: In his deal with the Lords Tony Blair got the better of William Hague but it is by no means clear that he has brought the peers to heel. They have demonstrated that they are a law unto themselves. Lord Cranborne certainly believes that he has won a concession to the hereditary principle. At least they live to fight another day.

The Government that surprised us with this concession to hereditary right, however honourable its intent, may feel tempted to do another deal with the Lords when the Royal Commission has reported. Already we read that seats in the reformed chamber will be filled only in part by popular election. Who can doubt that the surviving hereditaries will put their weight behind such moves?

Tony Blair wants to convince us that he is sincere about the second stage of reform. William Hague

says that he opposes stage one because he fears a house of cronies at stage two. Why not make the next concession one to what Mr Hague professes to want? Commit the Government now to a reformed second chamber that, because it should be conducting what Americans call "the people's business", will be fully elected and accountable to the people. There is no need to wait for the Royal Commission before deciding on this fundamental principle. No cronies. No hereditaries. No permanent élite.

JOHN PRATT  
The Centre for Citizenship  
London SE23

Sir: No better argument for the abolition of the House of Lords exists than your front-page photographs of the Conservative spokespersons who have recently resigned (4 December). Who are these people? Are they important?

RICHARD SLACK  
London E17

## Cars too dear

Sir: BMW are going to apply for a government grant to support their production of Rover cars because their competitors, Vauxhall and Ford, are already in receipt of such grants ("Rover Boss quits over huge losses", 3 December). I assume this means British taxpayers will be supporting the manufacture of cars that already sell in this country at anything from £2,000 upwards more than they sell to our continental neighbours.

These same companies make every effort to prevent the British taxpayer from acquiring models more cheaply on the Continent, despite EU rules to the contrary. Is it too much to expect of the Government to represent our interests by making any grant to a car manufacturer conditional on the selling of cars to the British consumer at prices that roughly equate to those in most of the rest of Europe?

ROGER IREDALE  
Whaley Bridge, Derbyshire

## The right to work

Sir: Your series on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights included Article 23 - "Everyone has the right to work..." If this is so, why are we doing so much to eliminate jobs? It's not only the crumbling industries, but the everyday jobs from ticket collecting to directory inquiries. And this in a world where the only natural resource that is on the increase is human labour.

Of course I will be told that it's the law of the free market - so you mechanise and drive out such jobs as do remain into the cheapest labour market you can find. But the free market is not a law of nature like the law of gravity - it is a human construct that we seem to have got stuck with.

"Ah," the pundits say, "it makes for cheap products, cheap food." But what good is cheap food to the totally pampered population of a Caribbean island, who have seen their banana market destroyed by the big American companies forcing open the European market, if they have no income to pay for such food?

The industrialist says, "I must reduce my labour force to keep costs down in the global market, and to keep my share price up." This is echoed by the pension fund manager who says, "Otherwise my trustees will sack me." And so we go on playing beggar-my-neighbour. We'll end up with a few giant corporations and a few very rich nations with vast aid budgets when what most people want is a humble job and the ability to buy their own food.

SAM ARNOLD-FORSTER  
Braintree, Essex

## Prison children

Sir: The review of prison mother and baby units (report, 4 December), is much to be welcomed. If the Government's Social Exclusion Unit believes in "joined up solutions to joined up problems", support for mothers in prison with an infant is an excellent place to start.

This is because prisoners who have suffered excessive punishment or neglect in childhood are at risk of repeating the pattern of poor parenting. Children who fear or despise their parents for too much control, or too little concern, enter school with a negative approach to all adult authority. In defying the teacher, they may disrupt classes, alienate staff and forfeit friends. Eventually such children are excluded. Bored and isolated at home they discover the distraction and excitement of delinquency.

Sir Keith Joseph pinpointed this downward spiral, passed on from parent to child, as the "cycle of deprivation". It is vital that we break the cycle by teaching mothers in prison to understand and enjoy their children. Since the care of children is also very hard work with huge demands on patience and stamina, the mother in prison should be linked to one of the many informal groups that will now support any parents who find their task overwhelming.

Dr M HEATLEY  
Oxford

## Let them die

Sir: In response to Denys Whatmore's letter (9 December) suggesting that smokers should not receive NHS treatment for self-inflicted illness, I have a few more suggestions to make.

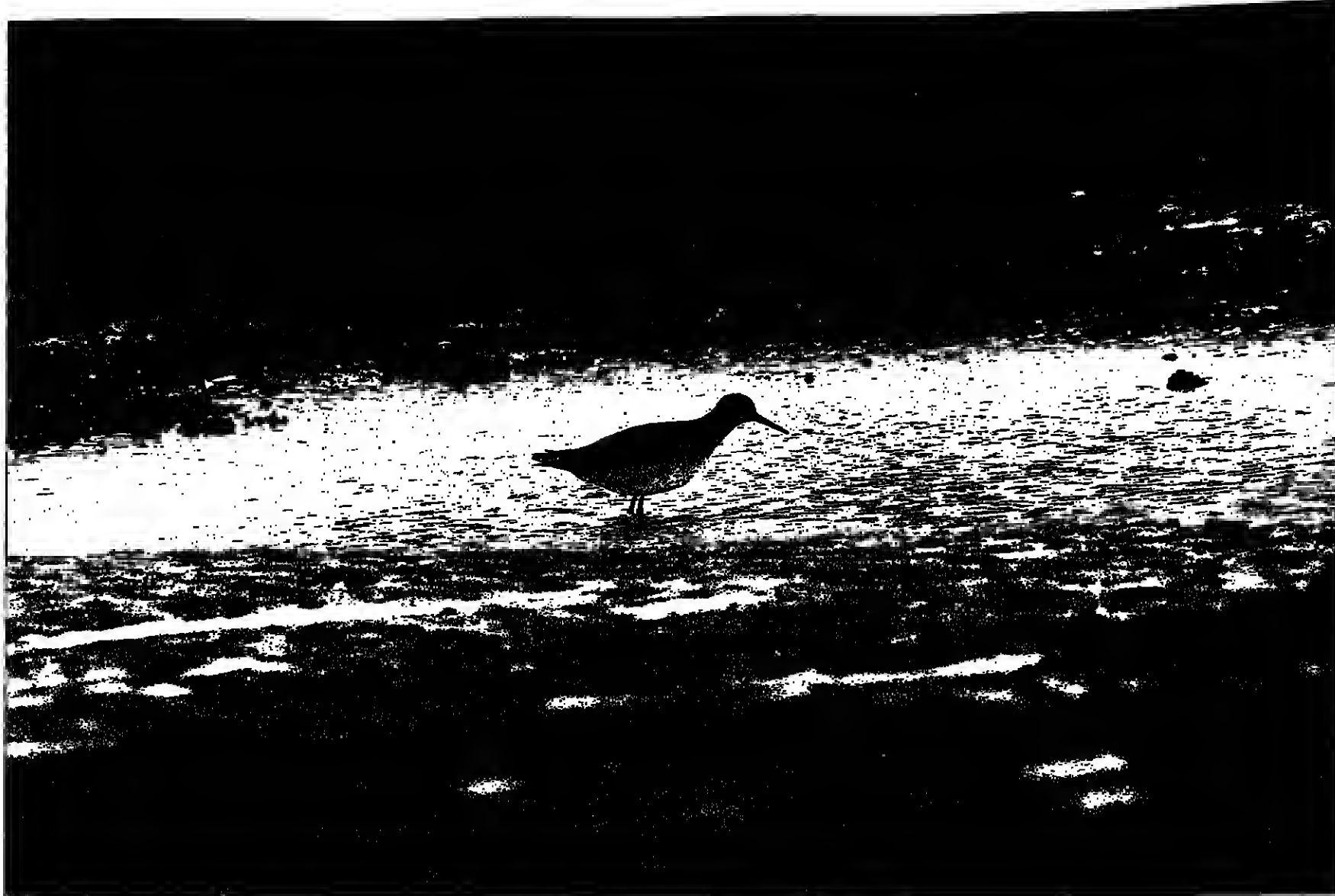
NHS treatment should not be available to eaters of fatty foods, especially bacon, hamburgers and fish and chips; those who take no form of exercise; executives who work for more than 60 hours a week and allow themselves to contract stress-related illnesses; those who voluntarily participate in dangerous sports such as skiing; all car drivers.

The above list should help to rule out the majority of people who maliciously expose themselves to health risks at the expense of the British taxpayer.

EMMA HEADLEY  
Pittmore, Fife

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Winter Visitors No 4: A bar-tailed godwit on the Norfolk coast at Titchwell

David Rose

## IN BRIEF

ie Christmas lights in every shopping street, should we not stop to think? I shall be told I am a killjoy, that the illuminations are good for trade etc. But what is the use of talking about reducing the rate of damage to the world environment if we are not prepared to surrender something?

AUDREY DEACON  
Harpenden, Hertfordshire

Sir: Ed Walker's advice to parents of fretful babies

("Even the gentlest shake can kill", 8 December) fails to mention the two most obvious forms of pacification. Unless an infant is ill or in pain, crying indicates either hunger or loneliness. Feeding on demand and carrying in arms or using a sling calms babies far more effectively than "putting them in their cots."

In societies where young children remain close to their mothers and are frequently offered the breast, crying is rare. DEBORAH THOMAS  
Dublin

## An embarrassment of riches, a richness of embarrassments

WELCOME BACK for another visit to our Christmas Bazaar, with lots of new ideas for 1998-style presents!

All the newest gadgets and imported novelties are here, so take your pick from a mouth-watering selection of goodies!

Make this a really different Christmas by giving any or all of the following...

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Every time the car is wound up, it goes for 20-25 miles, no problem. It's already revolutionising transport problems in the Third World, but it would be just right for your

local shopping or school trips. Takes just a couple of people only five minutes to wind up.

Comes with its own battery (weighs 65 lbs). From £30,200 (gears extra).

## Vintage Football Shirts

As Manchester United, England and other teams change their strip every six months in order to fool the punters into buying the new shirt, so the old strip - usually discarded by fans - becomes a collector's item.

After stockpiling disused lines, we can now offer many of these old playing strips at knock down prices. Sample prices: Aston Villa (late 1970s, £15), Wrexham (in Welsh or English, £5.50), Radio 1 All Stars XI (pre-Simon Bates era, £80), etc. Send SAE for complete list.

## Latex Foot Gloves

This is the first time there has ever been a pedal equivalent for those thin latex gloves which are so useful for dentists and mechanics alike - indeed, there isn't even a word for a foot glove in English!

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## Encyclopaedia of National Anthems

A priceless boon for the traveller. There is nothing worse than being the only person in a large crowd not to stand still for the local national anthem, or being thrown into jail for six months for laughing and



MILES KINGDON

Now at last you can sheathe your feet in a thin but strong covering of latex, should you need to

chatting throughout someone else's sacred song. Now there is no excuse, with this

compendious guide to the most stirring tunes and marches in the world! All melody lines and lyrics. Also on CD ROM. Also arranged for military bands etc, etc.

Guinness Fun Fake Foam The most ingenious prank of the season! This is simply a white plastic disc which is indistinguishable from the head on a pint of Guinness. You take it into a bar with you, order a pint of stout, slip this on top and say, all casual like: "Barman! There's something wrong with this pint!"

That's because, sticking out of the white foam, there's the little head of a lifelike mouse! See his face go purple as he tries to work out what's happened!

Comes in four other hilarious models: Peeping Prawn, Fish Face,

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## Do-It-Yourself Tattoo Removal Kit

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## Lifesize Cut Out Cardboard Car Passengers

Lifelike inflatable passengers have long been common in Northern Ireland, since the days when it became illegal to leave a parked car unoccupied in Belfast, but a cheaper version has often been needed for drivers on the mainland who have a need for artificial passengers.

This may because a driver needs an excuse not to pick up

hitch-hikers, or because he feels lonely, or simply because he wants to be seen in the company of "famous" people. The bending-down-and-looking-under-the-car model is ideal for women drivers who break down on motorways.

Models available include senior policeman, all Spice Girls, Prince Charles, Camilla Parker-Bowles, Mrs Thatcher, General Pinochet etc. From £37 each.

## Wiltshire White Horse Do-It-Yourself Kit

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## A timely decision in favour of justice and human rights

IT IS no coincidence that Jack Straw's decision yesterday on General Pinochet should come just as the UN was celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - which we have been commemorating with a daily publication of each article, accompanied by a cartoon by Ralph Steadman.

Human Rights, and justice against those who deprive others of them, are fundamentally what the Pinochet decision is all about. And the Universal Declaration of Human Rights remains the most direct statement of what those rights should be, and provides the reference point by which governments are judged not just by their own citizens but the international community as well.

In deciding to allow Pinochet to be extradited to Spain to face trial for crimes against Spanish citizens in Chile, Jack Straw is, of course, doing no more than allowing a judgment by the Law Lords to stand. It would have been far harder for him to have intervened the other way. But it remains, none the less, a brave move. Against all the pressures of commerce and international diplomacy, in advance of any real precedent, the prime minister of one country has allowed the extradition of a dictator of another country for a trial in a third country.

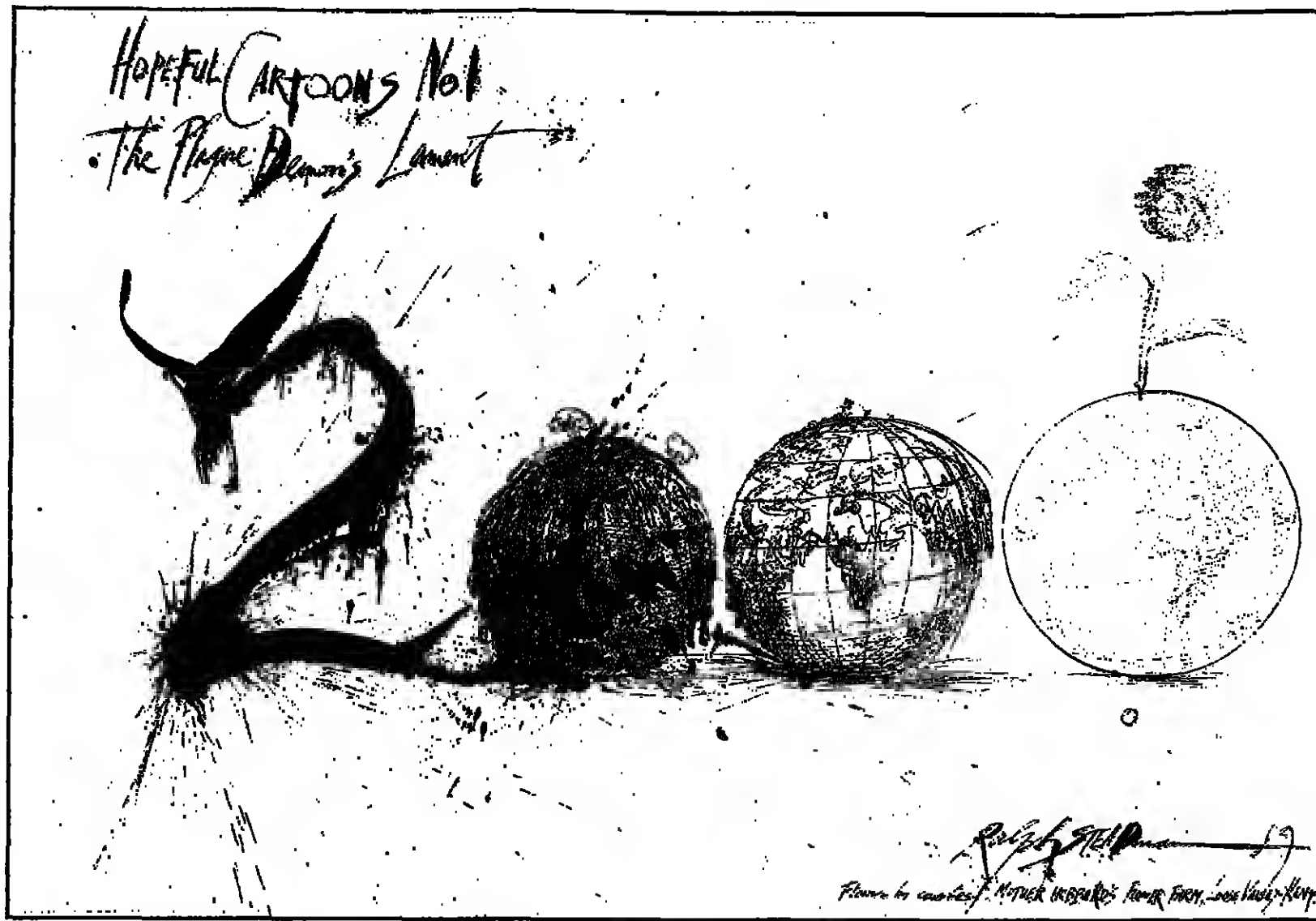
Just where that takes the world of international law in the future remains to be seen. Indeed, what precisely happens to General Pinochet when he gets to Spain has yet to be worked out. Critics will still worry that somehow this was a matter best left to Chile to decide how they should pursue truth and reconciliation. Legal doubters will still feel that this is a judgment that owes as much as politics as it does to a independent reading of the law.

Of course it does. That is the point. A few years ago such an extradition proceeding would never have been considered by a judge in Spain, or allowed by a cabinet minister in Britain. There wouldn't have been the extradition treaty, for a start. But then nor would there have been the political atmosphere in which politicians and judges came to their decisions.

The important point is that the world has changed, and changed profoundly. Human rights, or rather the lack of them, are an international concern being dealt with at international level in a way that has revolutionised the concept of sovereignty and the place of international law.

Whether this change is as a result of the Universal Declaration itself, or of the state leaders gathered yesterday at the United Nations in New York, can be doubted. The declaration embodies principles that have been largely ignored for generations, and are still ignored through half the world today.

No, the real importance of the Universal Declaration is not that it has made much difference but that, even today,



### Article 30

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

50 years after its publication, the values it sets down and the aspirations it proclaims for all remain as valid as they have ever been.

The great difference in time - and the development that must give the greatest cause for optimism - is that public opinion, the general sense of voters and citizens around the globe, has embraced the issue. Human rights are no longer considered to be simply a feature of liberal democracies, to be attained by others. Human rights are now considered to be just that: rights, which any citizen of any country has.

And the deprivation of those rights, through imprisonment, torture, kidnapping, massacre and censorship, is no longer considered just a matter for the country within which the sins are committed, but a matter of concern for everyone in the international community. Human rights are now part of everyone's agenda. The document setting them out is at hand. And the legal foundations are being laid, yesterday as much as tomorrow.

## Patient moves towards freedom of information

WHAT MOST of the public has always known from experience has now been proved by investigation. Your chances of surviving a life-threatening illness do vary according to where you are treated. The NHS league tables now include, for the first time, a measurement of a mortality rate, for breast cancer. You are more likely to survive breast cancer if treated in a hospital in East Surrey than if treated in one in Shropshire.

So what? After all, common sense tells us that hospitals are no more likely to perform uniformly than schools or factories. Someone will always come bottom, even if they are, in absolute terms, perfectly effective. And there will, of course, be many local and particular reasons for these outcomes. They do not necessarily cast doubts on the

conscientiousness or quality of care of the staff in those hospitals. It may well be that, say, if the staff in Shropshire had not been as dedicated and skilful, then the mortality rates would have been even higher. Statistical variations can arise from the underlying health of patients, their relative prosperity and their dietary habits.

Many league tables, from schools to international economic performance, as well as medical care, contain flaws. But that misses the point. The point is that the more information we have, the more chance there is of some sharp questions being asked. There is now more evidence, however imperfect, with which to hold health professionals and politicians to account. And, as far as we are able to exercise choice about where we are treated, we can make better informed decisions.

The Government plans to extend tables to emergencies, heart attacks and other cases. They should be available for individual doctors, too. Freedom of information and patient choice are, slowly, becoming realities.

# Are we grown-up enough yet for the smack of weak government?

WELL, SINCE no one else is waiting for the bloody Royal Commission before putting their ear in about a reformed second chamber, neither will I. Hague's lot will soon be brudding abroad their proposals for a replacement to the House of Lords (can you bear the suspense?), and - more importantly - an advance leak of the Government's own initial, tentative, just-thought-we'd-run-these-past-you thoughts appeared in several newspapers (including this one) on Tuesday. At this rate the Natural Law Party will have published its own call for a presently elevated, yugic chamber, before the commission's head has so much as been nominated.

Let's stick, for the moment, with Labour. What Tony Blair and Lord Irvine seem to be mulling over is a chamber made of life peers, a sprinkling of MSPs (members of the Scottish Parliament), MWAs (members of the Welsh Assembly), MEPs and other mmm-ing acronyms from Scotland, Wales and the European Parliament and a job lot of councillors selected to represent English regions, all supplemented by one-third of members directly elected in a manner yet to be devised. I presume the Law Lords will stick around, unless the Lord Chancellor has plans for a cash supreme court, but I'm unclear about the bishops. There is also a suggestion that life peer "overcrowding" might be dealt with by bringing in an age restriction of 70 or 75. Since we are talking about the House of Lords I should perhaps clarify that this would be the upper, not the lower, limit. Let me tell you why this particular

Tone and Derry show is not so funny. I have sat on this kind of body before, and there ain't a lot to be said for it. Sixteen years ago I was the "youth" representative on something called the "BBC continuing education council". For all I know this august body meets still, but may no longer be composed of a bishop, a rabbi, a couple of headteachers, a guided townsman, a man with a beard from the Open University, an Indian lady from the commission of racial equality, a chain-smoker representing the Scottish TUC, a camper with the Boys' Brigade and a retired pharmacist from Chelmsford Rotarians, all chaired by the distinguished head of a former North Country polytechnic.

Now and again copious papers, headed with a BBC crest, would fall through the letterbox, containing the minutes of the last meeting and the agenda for the next one. Our sessions, in the Art Deco council chamber at Broadcasting House, were attended by the looming presence of Lord Reth (in portrait), an imposing BBC matron straight out of Richmal Crompton and an inexhaustible supply of coffee and biscuits. There we discussed educational programmes and made suggestions. These were treated in lapidary fashion, noted down and carted off. We felt flattered.

It was all very serious, and part of the constitution of the BBC, I daresay the debates we had were very informed and set at a suitable distance from the immediate concerns of programme-makers - who would doubtless have benefited enormously from our wisdom had they been heeding it.



DAVID AARONOVITCH

Look around the globe and find second chambers with a quarter tribal elders or one-third voodoo magicians

Alas, they were not. While we were chatting they had shows to make and a corporation to run. We merely existed to turn days into agendas and agendas into minutes.

Why should anyone have heeded us? We had no power. But we were an important part of a fiction that the public was somehow involved in the BBC. Now Labour wants to institute a similar fiction - that the executive is under scrutiny - by setting up a sort of government advisory committee.

It will probably cite some second chamber somewhere else in the world, similarly bizarrely constituted and rated a great success. And indeed, look around the globe and you will find just about every permutation you can think of: chambers with one half shamans; a quarter tribal elders; one-third practising voodoo magicians. We

will be advised to take heed from the Canadian experience, and heart from the Taiwanese Upper Diet to consider the Vanuatu Chamber of Volcanoes.

I say let's do none of these things. I am tired of endless nonsense about New Zealand. They change their minds there every five minutes, anyway. Instead let us consider two simple questions. What should a second chamber do in Britain, and how should it be selected? I believe that the answer to the first is that it must act as a restraint on the executive, as a check on and a balance to the elective dictatorship of the majority in the whipped House of Commons. The second chamber should be the place where the government is invited to reconsider, and where its appointments and actions should be most heavily scrutinised. Furthermore, to fulfil these functions legitimately in the eyes of the government and the people, the second chamber must be - preponderantly - directly elected.

There are two problems here. The first, smaller, one is that such a chamber may lose what has been called the "deliberative" element. This quality was defined by Walter Bagehot as best belonging to "an assembly in which the mass of members have nothing to lose, where most have nothing to gain... where no one has a constituency where hardly anyone cares for the minister of the day (which) is the very assembly in which to look for... independent criticism". Sounds like nice work if you can get it.

The second problem is more fundamental. Power is one of those remarkable things - a completely finite substance. There is only a certain amount of it about, so for one person to have more of it, another must have less. If a second chamber is to have an enhanced ability to scrutinise and block, it follows that the Commons (or rather, the Government acting through the Commons) will suffer additional limitations to its power.

My own answer to the first problem is to set up a chamber, of which 85 per cent or so of the members will be directly elected by PR from regional lists (including the nations of Scotland and Wales), and a further 15 per cent nominated by civic bodies (the BMA, BBC, political parties, charities, the CBI, religious groups, the Royal Academy, national newspapers, sports associations, unions, shamans etc) as *ex officio* members, participating in committees, but not voting.

As to the second, we should be clear. If the upper chamber is not any kind of threat to the supremacy of the Commons, then it isn't worth having. And if it isn't elected, it will not be able to challenge the lower chamber. For those who extol "strong government" above all else, this may well be preferable, in which case they should stop pretending that they want a second chamber at all. We would do better to save the money expended on a toothless consultative committee and, instead, blow it all on focus groups and royal commissions.

For myself, I do not believe (as Tories and Labourites appear to) that their administrations have monopolies on truth and wisdom. We Britons are grown-up enough, I think, to cope with the smack of weak government.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"He had ample power to put an end to this shameful and damaging episode. He has chosen instead to prolong it."  
Baroness Thatcher,  
on Jack Straw's Pinochet decision

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Self-satire, disillusion, absence of prejudice may be freedom, but they are not strength."  
Henri Frederic Amiel,  
Swiss writer



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DOES CLINTON promise that he will personally take up arms and defend Israel if the latest deal doesn't work out? Would that be the kind of promise he made when he pointed his finger at the American people and said, "I did not have sex with that woman"? Are the solemn promises of men such as Arafat and Clinton a stable foundation for peace? It is to be hoped the Israelis will do nothing this weekend to turn the opinion of Americans against them

through any overt gesture of disrespect to the man who is still America's elected leader. But when it comes to matters of substance, the Israelis are right to be cautious.  
Las Vegas Review Journal, US

THE PEACE process is still marred by the asymmetry of power between Israel and the Palestinians, and between the power of Israel's supporters in the States and those who support Palestinian rights. And it

is true that Israel continues to be the beneficiary of a US double standard. And yet when the President goes to Gaza, his visit represents an important departure from the past and a

breakthrough on which we can build for the future.  
Jordan Times

THE WYE process is in a shambles. Never the less, when

President Clinton travels to Gaza next week, analysts throughout the Middle East will debate the meaning and significance of the visit. It represents a major step in the developing US-Palestinian relationship. If the trip goes as planned, despite continuing Israeli efforts to obstruct the process, the US will be indicating that its effort to work with Palestinians can be independent from the attitudes and behaviour of the other party to

the peace process. The President's visit to Gaza represents an important departure from the past and a breakthrough to build on for the future. Arab-Americans who have paid a price of 30 years will feel vindicated and strengthened. We will continue our struggle for Palestinian statehood and for Israeli withdrawal from occupied lands, somewhat freed of the taboos that have inhibited our efforts for so long.  
The Daily Star, Lebanon



## PANDORA

ON THE tide of seasonal festivities this week rides the Labour Party's Millbank revue. This year's event, as last year's, will be scripted by Matthew Taylor, Labour's former assistant general secretary, who now heads up the Institute of Public Policy Research. Now that he is outside the party, you imagine that Taylor would have a freer hand to poke fun at them, as he successfully did last year with his tale of Prince Mandy in *Spinderella*. However, every revue is subject to scrutiny by party officials, and this year the sensitivity of the censors is acute after a series of delicate stories. One gag, about Messrs Mandelson, Brown and Davies, has definitely had a red line put through it.

AS THE impeachment proceedings for President Clinton get into gear, Pandora is amused to see that Bill's defence lawyers have left no stone unturned. In their report, published this week, the defence team dug up five dictionaries to support the President's claim that he did not have "sexual relations" with Monica Lewinsky. Sexual relations as defined by the various dictionaries either means "coitus", or "intercourse". Absolutely no mention of cigars.

ROBERT KILROY-SILK has been revealing some scandalous habits that may well affect his fortunes if he stands as an independent in the race to be London's mayor. Kilroy-Silk, a former Labour MP and presenter of his own BBC show, admitted at the Broadcasting Press Guild luncheon on Tuesday that he did not make much use of public transport. This shocking revelation has already been made by that other mayoral hopeful, Steven Norris. As Tory transport minister in 1995, Norris said he didn't use public transport because of the "dreadful human beings sitting alongside you". Kilroy-Silk's excuse? "I commute in a chauffeur-driven Jaguar. Last time I took the Tube was two years ago." When asked how much he had paid for the ticket, Kilroy-Silk admitted: "I can't remember. Somebody else paid for it." Eat your heart out, Steve.

PANDORA READS with interest the outburst from Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber against the state of Britain's music industry. In a letter to

another paper yesterday, the musical duo complain that record companies cynically manipulate the charts, thus degrading individual songs. Interesting to note that, on this occasion, Rice needed no prompting to exercise his knowledge of popular music. Things were different once, when Rice was approached to set some pop questions for BBC's now defunct *Mastermind* programme. The programme's presenter, Magnus Magnusson, explained on LBC Radio yesterday that Rice put his refusal in writing: "I think the letter we got back was the shortest that I have ever seen - only two words."

TONY BANKS has still not given his assent or dissent to the tone that honours him (*The Wit and Wisdom of Tony Banks*, published by Robson Books), so while I still wait for his call, Pandora offers another insight into the sports minister who wants to stop joking and get serious: "I don't have a monstrous ego. I really don't. I have no ego at all. I find publicity unnerving because I don't regard myself as a politician - and neither do most of my colleagues."

IF ANYONE thought the exhibition celebrating 40 years of the Carry On films, launched at the Museum of the Moving Image yesterday, looked a bit sparse, the producer of the series, Peter Rogers, was on hand to explain why. "I'm surprised they've got anything here at all," exclaimed Rogers. "The films were done economically. After they finished, things like costumes all had to go back from where we got them." Rogers admitted to Pandora: "We never thought of ourselves as an institution, let alone that we would end up in a museum."

FASHION DESIGNERS are renowned for their spontaneity, and Domenico Dolce (pictured) and Stefano Gabbana are no exception. The duo - who have clothed Demi Moore, Madonna and Mick Jagger among others - made another acquisition during a recent holiday in the Caribbean - a hotel butler. According to *Newsweek*, the butler looked after them so well that they whisked him away to work for them. One insider remarked: "Most people only steal the robes."



## Lesbian love that inflames hatred



YASMIN ALIBHAI-BROWN  
*'If women's physical needs get fulfilled like this, marriage and society will collapse,' said one critic*

IF I were that way inclined, I know the woman I would like to spend all my days and nights with. The last time I interviewed her, the photographer, a much-divorced and embittered chap, was so smitten that he later asked me for her address in India.

Adored by hundreds of millions of other people besides the two of us, she is Shabana Azmi, film actress, politician, activist, feminist and ferocious fighter for freedoms and rights. For 25 years she has shone as the top star in Indian cinema, both art-house and popular. Fourteen top awards bear testimony to the power of her work, which was recognised by John Schlesinger, who gave her a key role in his film *Madame Souza*, which also starred Shirley MacLaine. Even more impressively, she has used her stardom to fight for the rights of slum dwellers, with whom she spends much of her time (they tell her that she should pay a little more attention to her clothes and make-up when she is with them, as film heroines are meant to help them forget the dirty deal God gave them), and for women to have

control over their lives and bodies. On top of all this, the woman is also an MP in India's upper house. When you talk to her about her work she reacts with irritation because, with her upbringing, there is nothing at all extraordinary about what she is doing. Her mother, Shaikat Kalfi, was, she says, a truly impressive stage actress, and her father is a well known poet and a

leading member of the Indian Communist Party. Her husband, Javald Akhtar, is currently one of India's most popular poets and songwriters.

All of them have been politically engaged for decades. In recent years this has taken on an urgency because, as liberal Muslims, they have had to take on those who want to reclaim India for Hindus, and those Muslims who are reacting by turning intolerant themselves.

Today Azmi is in serious trouble in all these areas of her life. In her new film, *Fire*, she plays a middle-class wife in a traditional home who not only is childless, but is also expected to lie next to her husband without being touched because he is in the process of renouncing sex, just as Gandhi did. A new sister-in-law arrives, who has also been rejected by her husband - because he is in love with another woman, who had to marry to keep up appearances.

The two women end up consoling each other, first in the kitchen while they cook and then later on, tenderly, in bed. It is a lovely, erotic film that also makes some serious points

about family, community and the individual in a country where all three are undergoing enormous upheaval, especially in urban areas.

The film has rocked the nation, which was perhaps to be expected. Lesbianism does not exist in Indian consciousness. So much so that no language has developed to describe this human experience, even though in miniature paintings of earlier centuries, gay sexuality is depicted quite openly. If you don't even have the linguistic tools to describe something, you disable it utterly.

What is worrying are the unspoken reasons why politicians are rousing the public to riot against the film, and why mobs are bursting into cinemas and forcing all further showings to be cancelled. Senior right-wing politicians are encouraging this violence. These are reactionaries objecting to the kind of wider changes that Azmi and others have been fighting for. As one of them put it: "If women's physical needs get fulfilled through lesbian acts, the institution of marriage and society itself will collapse."

The protest is, in fact, a concerted move to stop the progress that

frightens the kind of people who can feel safe only with an aged, intemperate, closed world.

They hate the face and voice of modern India, a country which few in this country understand. As that profoundly good writer Sunil Khilnani says in his book *The Idea of India*, this is because Britons are either committed to the plot line of post-imperial decline and fall, or think of the country as a mystical muddle in which you can only immerse yourself, like those people in the Ganges. But Azmi, Arundhati Roy - who also faced months of public anger for writing about illicit love in her book *The God of Small Things* - and others like them represent a different reality.

They are strong and self-confident - and so they should be, because India is now among the top industrial nations in the world. They are not "Westernised" in their values, but not are they prepared to sign up to backwardness in the name of some unnecessary nationalism. We can only hope that the repeated onslaughts on their lives and their work don't, in the end, destroy them. That would be a reason to riot.

## We're not middle-aged any more - that's just too dull

## SALLY BRAMPTON

*Look at Betty - she wears black leather, drives a convertible, and is the most glamorous thing I've seen*

MY DAUGHTER, aged six, has a death list. Meticulously drawn up, it is based on a first come, first served principle. First off the mark is her grandfather (classified as "very old"). Then comes grandma, ("old"), then Daddy ("middle old"), then me ("young old").

It is her way of imposing logic on an unpredictable world. I can only hope, for her sake, that it all goes according to plan.

Well, it's a tricky thing, age. These days it happens earlier and earlier or later and later. First it was my daughter who, when she was not quite four, announced that she was "over the Spice Girls". Then it was my closest friend, who summoned me for a crisis conference. She is a week younger than me. We have been constant companions for nearly 30 years. She had just woken up and discovered that she was 43 and not, as she had always believed, 27. Surely not, I said. That's middle-aged. Well, OK, so our waists aren't quite what they used to be, and slip-dresses are the work of the devil. Otherwise, nothing much else has changed.

Perhaps, she said, it happens when you're 50? No, I said. Look at Betty. She wears black leather, drives a convertible and is the most glamorous thing I've ever seen. Then there's Jeannie, who stomps around the place in Miyake and Doctor Martens, or June, who's 60 for God's sake, and still slides into a pair of Levi 501's (orange tab, please) and a white T-shirt.

These people aren't middle-aged. But nor are they in that new media expression, "middle youth". Was there ever a blander or more patronising phrase?

Middle-class, middle-aged, Middle England, middle-brow, middle of the road. Oh, dull. Oh dull and duller. It's so English, that

phrase, so terribly embarrassing. You can hear them in conference, can't you? For God's sake don't mention the O word. Well, I suppose it's better than "young at heart", which is downright smug, but even so I haven't the faintest idea what it really means. I think it's intended to describe the over-thirties which, in the Peter Pan world of magazine publishing, is considered to be "mature". Certainly there's a lot of guff that goes with it, about women "knowing their own minds" (as opposed to whose?) and making "independent choices", but really the exciting new magazines being launched into the market of middle youth are no more than the same tired formula given a glossy make-over - all frocks, cooking and gardening.

You know what's wrong with women's magazines for the over-thirties - (publishers still can't get their tongues around the f-word). No grit. No humour. No rigour. No bloody style. They're so cosy, made for a generation who seem metaphorically to be preparing to get their slippers on. Which, believe me, we are not. We're no different from the women we used to be. OK, so we're 20 years older, and it's our age that's doing their heads in. Middle age is just not - to borrow the current Blair soundbite - *sexy*. Well, we may be in our forties and fifties

but we still wear Gaultier, Lang, Demeulemeester and Joseph, read everything from experimental new fiction to cookbooks, can spot an Alessi at 50 paces, and surf the Web.

Which makes us both a market ripe for exploitation, and a problem. The demographic number-crunchers just can't get their heads around the old, banal clichés of middle age. We confuse them. *Elle* and *Marie Claire* may be way too young for us, but magazines that tell us how to crochet a centre-piece for a table or disguise a thickening waist with clever accessories are just way too old.

And it's not only magazine publishers who are confused. I use the example simply because every time I meet a publisher, he or she tells me they're thinking of launching a new title for women who are, well, older. I know, I know, it's hard to get the word out. "What exactly is it you want?" asked one (man) in frustration. Wrong question. In my days on women's magazines you never asked a potential reader what they wanted. You asked them what they didn't want.

To be fair, things have improved a little. Ten years ago, women like me were referred to as "the grey market". In those days, women ceased to exist past the age of 35, or certainly weren't considered worth wooing. AB18-35 was the magic formula. For those not conversant with the lingo, AB means rich, 18-35 means young. The 35, by the way, was always a myth. No matter what they said, 25 was what they meant. In the magazine world, past 35 you stayed at home, knocked up gourmet meals out of leftovers and wore bright colours in clashing patterns - preferably home-made, so that they could slip a little bonus of a paper pattern in between the pages, or one of those interminable



Pearl Read, in her fifties, featured in a poster campaign by Age Concern for the first ever Age Discrimination Week

knitting patterns. That woman, who ever she was, no longer exists.

And nor does middle age, if my contemporaries are anything to go by. Which is why it's such a dreadful problem for an industry dominated by statistics and neat little soundbites. If they can't nail us with a couple of words, how are they going to sell to us? And it's not just magazines that are suffering. It's anybody who wants to advertise their product - which pretty well takes in most of the world.

Not only do we earn our own money and spend it, but we're more likely to dictate how the communal family pot is distributed than are our men. We either left having kids until late, and so are well established in the top rank of our careers; or we had kids when we were young, so they are now grown-up and independent. As for mortgages, well, we have those too, and the houses and gardens that go with them.

I know this much. Our time will come. When I first started writing about fashion for a Sunday newspaper, back in the early Eighties, I was there under duress - shoved into a corner, with three column inches if I was lucky. Well, just look how things have changed.

As for women's issues, they're relegated to the women's pages, edged around with the odd recipe or tip for home improvement. These days, Sunday newspapers are almost nothing but women's pages, with the odd bit of news coverage thrown in for light relief. Then there were men's magazines - or rather, there weren't. I know, it's hard to believe, but until Nick Logan came along with *Arena*, there wasn't a single one. Now they're across the news stands like a rash.

It doesn't take a genius to spot what's next. Us. I think my daughter has it right. Forget middle age. We are the new young-old.

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## Times change, prejudice doesn't

AS I thought about what I should say to New Zealanders about your centenary, the first thing that struck me was that the more things change the more they stay the same. Let me explain to you what I mean. On the issue of more taxes, an editorial in *The Press* in February 1998 says as follows: "As a colony we have reached the unenviable position of being the most heavily taxed and of being the most extravagant of all the colonies. To lower the taxes does not seem popular at present. New schemes must be devised to spend more money, and the Premier's personal extravagance has not been condemned by a single journal calling itself 'liberal'. We are heaping up taxes, but the day of reckoning will come. Unfortunately when it does come the blame may not be put on the right shoulders."

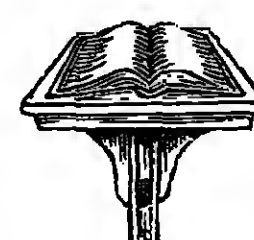
And on the issue of old age pensions, in September 1898, when they were talking about the first government pension bill, they noted: "...the Government's Bill... although it involves the expenditure of a large and ever-increasing

sum of money year by year, without indicating how it is to be provided..."

There are other stories that are familiar. You may be interested to know that there was a headline in 1898 that accused the ministers and members of Parliament of denigrating the House because of their ongoing use of urgency and insisting that the public had no faith in matters that were pushed through the legislative chamber under such circumstances. The other thing that struck me as we perused 100 years was that MPs' salaries and salaries of the state sector are always good for a headline.

What I would conclude from looking at these is that you, as newspaper publishers, are very familiar with the buttons that need to be pushed to quench the hunger of your readers in terms of their desire to have their prejudices satisfied. And so we go back to the same stories again and again.

It's also worth observing, as it is also worth observing, that some prejudices still do apply. I want to say that in my experience in the last decade I have seen an



## PODIUM

JENNY SHIPLEY  
From a speech by the Prime Minister of New Zealand to the Newspaper Publishers' Association, Wellington

improvement in this area, but there is still some progress to be made. Reflecting on the past 100 years there is language that amuses.

One hundred years ago they spoke of "the shrieking sisterhood" as they described the uncompromising, stropky, strogy-minded women who insisted that it was their right to stand as equals in the voting booth. Today you can still see some similar headlines.

International studies conclude that women leaders do, from time to time, struggle to be visible in the news. In New Zealand we could not automatically conclude that that is the case, given that the leaders of both major political parties are women. But that international research also says other interesting things. An issue that struck a chord with me was that, when women become prime ministers, the media tends to be preoccupied by the gender issues as opposed to the substantive programme that the person may wish to advance.

I want to remind you of some of the language that has been used in the media in relation to myself over the last 12 months.

I went back and looked at how male commentators had tended to describe me as a person, compared to female commentators. You may be interested to know that the male language tended to include words like "battle", "amazons", "iron lady", "stern boss" and "public enemy", compared with the female language which included "queen", "a farming woman", "matron

Shipley", "Shipley may kiss and cuddle".

It's frustrating to count the centimetres printed in terms of this government's aspirations for the people of New Zealand, compared with the media's interest in what glasses I choose, what clothes I wear, how my hair is cut, whether I decided that for myself or somebody has in fact "made me over" or, indeed, who my advisers are. I am in hope that that the language will change.

I respect your right to describe us in politics as you see fit, for it is the right of the press to comment on the life and times of the country.

However, I want to observe that it is not a two-way street. While the media demand the right to speak freely, as you should in a democracy, the media in my experience do not give proportional space to politicians' views on whether that media comment has been fair. I refer you to Max Lerner in his book *Love and Hate in Politics*: "A politician wouldn't dream of being allowed to call a columnist the things a columnist is allowed to call a politician. I leave you to reflect on that."







# Professor Sidney Pollard

SIDNEY POLLARD was an economic and social historian who commanded an international reputation, and made important contributions across the discipline.

His work embraced studies of both Britain and Europe, and assumed an increasing significance from the mid-1960s. *The Genesis of Modern Management* (1965) secured the American Newcomen Society Prize for the best book on business history between 1964 and 1966, and in Pollard's opinion remained his most satisfying scholarly work. From the late 1960s his contributions related particularly to two research areas.

One preoccupation focused on the relative decline of the British economy and led to *The Wasting of the British Economy* (1982) and *Britain's Prime and Britain's Decline* (1989). This research argued that damaging consequences flowed from the dominance in economic policy-making of financial and commercial groups over the industrial interest. His work on capital formation, a project which allowed his mathematical skills to come into play, was linked to this bigger theme of Britain's relative economic decline.

His other major preoccupation led him to concentrate on "the economic development of Europe seen as a single process". His 1981 book *Peaceful Conquest* reflected this interest. So did *Marginal Europe* (1997), with its argument that regions which were "among the poorest, least favoured by nature and political influence" provided the salient locations for the industrial changes which transformed European societies.

Pollard also carried out research into labour history, an interest which reflected his political leanings. His works on Robert Owen and the Sheffield Outrages (both published in 1971) built on earlier studies. This same interest can also be traced in his work for the Society for the Study of Labour History, of which he was a founder member in 1960. He also maintained a lifelong interest in the Co-operative Movement and its history.

His origins lay in Central Europe. He was born Siegfried Pollak in Vienna in 1925, the second of two sons of Moses Pollak, a commercial traveller, and his wife Leontine (née Katz). His parents originated in Galicia but had moved to Vienna, where he received his early education. He excelled in mathematics, and held a youthful preference for a career in science. He also became an exceptionally proficient violinist.

But his life and that of his parents changed dramatically in 1938. Following the Anschluss, anti-Semitic pressures drove his parents from their council flat to a one-room apartment in the Leopoldstadt ghetto. In such circumstances, in December 1938 his parents secured a place for him on one of the Kindertransporte to Britain. A Jewish committee in Edinburgh had provided the funds for his departure. Pollard never saw his parents again. They perished in the Holocaust. Where and when remain unknown.

After reception camps in East Anglia he went to Whittingehame, the seat of the Balfour family in East Lothian, where he engaged principally in agricultural work which the British authorities hoped would prepare such young refugees for an eventual life on a kibbutz in Palestine. He left Scotland in 1941 and travelled south, initially to another settlement at Bredon's Norton, before working as a market gardener in Cambridge. At the same time, he resolved to continue with his education and received support from Greta Burkill, a guardian angel to many refugees from the Greater Germany.

He studied by correspondence course for the London Matriculation examination and then for the external BSc (Econ) degree. His excellent performance on the latter resulted in a student's place at the LSE. However, his attendance was delayed until his return from military service. In 1943 he volunteered for the armed forces and served with the Reconnaissance Corps. With his entry into military life Siegfried Pollak became transformed into Sidney Pollard.

In January 1947, following his demobilisation, he entered the LSE where he graduated with first class honours in 1949 (though he had taken the examinations in 1948), and secured a research scholarship. His research focused on the British shipbuilding industry between 1870 and 1914. He completed the doctorate in 1950 and obtained his degree in the following year. By then he had begun his academic career. In July 1950 Sheffield University appointed him to the first Douglas Knoop Research Fellowship. The major research outcome of the Fellowship was *A History of Labour in Sheffield 1350-1939* (1959). Various local history publications and a respected text, *The Development of the British Economy* (1962), led to his appointment in 1963 to the first Chair of Economic History at Sheffield. His inaugural lecture revealed a deep commitment to the Marxist interpretation of history.

Pollard proceeded to build his department, focusing especially on research output. However, his growing reputation attracted the attention of universities outside Britain. Between 1969 and 1970 he was at Berkeley and in 1971 accepted the offer of a post there. However, he then withdrew his acceptance and secured reinstatement at Sheffield. Nevertheless, his passion for travel, combined with an inner restlessness, led to visiting appointments in Israel, Germany, the US and Australia. His snapping of the link with Sheffield came 30 years after his appointment, when he accepted a post at Bielefeld, in West Germany. He spent 10 years there, retiring as Emeritus Professor in 1990. He returned "with something of a heavy heart" to live in Sheffield and renewed his contact with the university as Senior Honorary Research Fellow in the Department of History.

In view of his achievements Pollard was elected a corresponding Fellow of the British Academy in 1988. He was presented with a Festschrift in 1991. Then in 1992 Sheffield University conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters.

Pollard's career amounted to a resounding triumph over adversity. The anti-Semitism in Vienna, the difficulty he experienced in pursuing a scientific career because as a young refugee he had no access to laboratories, and the barriers placed in the way of his academic career by one of his supervisors at LSE, would have deterred many lesser souls. But through his prodigious abilities and gritty determination he surmounted these hurdles. Surprisingly, these problems did not generate any bitterness within him.

Towards the end of his life he wrote, "The feeling of not wholly belonging anywhere remains." He lived as a marginal figure, looking on, puzzled and fascinated, from the outside, and some of his powerful drive resulted from this marginality. But he felt most consistently at home in Sheffield, where he had begun his academic career approximately 12 years after he had arrived as a child refugee at Harwich.

After much turbulence in his life he found the peace he sought, in his second marriage, in 1982, to Helen Trippett. He secured a routine which allowed for his interest in walking, musical concerts, travel, solving the "too easy" crossword in *The Times*, and also for continuing with his academic research, until the weekend he died.

COLIN HOLMES

Siegfried Pollak (Sidney Pollard), economic and social historian; born Vienna 21 April 1925; Douglas Knoop Research Fellow, Sheffield University 1950-52; Assistant Lecturer in Economic History 1952-55; Lecturer 1955-60; Senior Lecturer 1960-63; Professor 1963-80; Professor of Economic History, Bielefeld University 1980-90 (Emeritus); FBA 1988; married 1949 Eileen Andrews (two sons, one daughter; marriage dissolved); 1982 Helen Trippett; died Sheffield 23 November 1998.



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logically qualified staff. In due course a psychotherapeutic clinic was established at 37 Queen Anne Street which continued in practice, with Jeffrey as a leading consultant, until the early 1970s.

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Throughout her life, Jeffrey retained the qualities that gave rise to her childhood nickname. As the staff at her school put it, she always wanted to know about "causes and purposes - the why and what for of things". Her father, Robert Cowley, who had worked as a designer with William Morris and later as a manager at Liberty's in Regent Street, gave up that career to take on his parents' farm in Worcestershire, a primitive smallholding of some 20 acres with orchards and streams. There were a few sheep, two cows, two pigs, two horses and assorted poultry.

Here Carol Jeffrey was brought up: a childhood spent close to the land and the animals; a frugal existence of fetching water from the well, bringing in wood for fires, milking cows, curing bacon, making butter and cheese and bread - the classic pattern of a poor yet educated family wrestling a living from the land.

This early experience, to which she constantly referred, developed in Jeffrey a deep awareness of the instinctive life and the rhythms of nature and laid the foundations for her profound understanding of the human psyche which she went on developing until she died.

Carol Jeffrey was an "original" in the best sense of the word. She never peddled second-hand dogma; all her insights were her own and she was always ready to challenge accepted orthodoxies if they did not accord with her own experience. She remained wide open to new ideas and retained her passion for learning well into her hundredth year. Such people sit uncomfortably with established schools and groups who think they have the "right" answers, and she was no exception, often taking issue with one or other of the versions of Jungian psychology that have proliferated since his death.

As a therapist, her main guide was her own insight and experience, founded on long analysis and deep study. She was willing to admit ignorance and simply wait for en-

lightenment rather than rush in with off-the-shelf answers. This innate attitude of not knowing, of sharing a journey of discovery with her clients, made her a wonderfully effective therapist and endeared her to many hundreds of child and adult patients. She quickly won their trust and opened their eyes to their own psychological workings.

Underlying all her work and thought was a deep faith in the evolutionary process - not in a Darwinian sense, but in terms of the individual psyche evolving towards total awareness of itself and of its deep connection with humanity and the world. Those who knew her well felt that Carol Jeffrey had herself achieved that awareness to an exceptional breadth and depth.

JEREMY BEST

Editha Caroline Cowley, teacher and psychotherapist; born White Hall, Worcestershire 31 October 1898; married 1925 Tom Jeffrey (died 1984; two sons, one daughter); died Charing, Kent 6 November 1998.



Brand was General Secretary, 1956-86, of Forest School Camps, where children could experience living together in the countryside

## Ronald Brand

RONALD BRAND was an outstanding youth leader, teacher and humanitarian. As an inspirational leader of Forest School Camps for over 40 years, Brand opened up the countryside, as well as the support, love and learning which can be found in a small community, to many thousands of children and staff. He lived simply, giving generously and equally to all he met. He was also a dedicated political activist.

He was born in 1910, one of seven children, in Bermondsey south-east London, where his father worked in a family fur business. He had a sound basic education at an enlightened school where he excelled in sports.

The influence which gave direction to his life was that of a youth movement, the Order of Woodcraft Chivalry (OWC), founded by Ernest Westlake during the First World War. Ernest's son, Aubrey, was a GP in Bermondsey and had founded one of the order's first experimental groups, of which Brand became a keen member.

The OWC had some common ground with the Scouts, but Ernest Westlake, in contrast to the soldier Baden-Powell, was a philosopher and anthropologist who believed that boys and girls in the cities needed the experience of living together in the woods and hills of the countryside where they could confront some of the conditions which their forebears in prehistoric times had to adapt and control in order to survive.

Apart from the many local youth groups, the OWC founded Forest School at its base near Fordingbridge, on the edge of the New Forest, and also a scheme for retraining unemployed men, the "Grith Fyrd" or Peace Militia.

Brand, on leaving school, became a laboratory technician at Guy's Hospital, in London, but was soon chosen as a staff leader at Grith Fyrd and later as a teacher at Forest School. Here some 25 children lived in huts in the woods and the school became well known as a progressive school with an emphasis on craft work and living in natural surroundings.

At Forest School Brand met, and in 1936 married, Ellen Meatyard (known to all as "N"), the school's first housemother. After the birth of their second child, unable to support a family on Forest School's token salary, Ron Brand became a school attendance officer with Surrey County Council.

Called up to the RAF in 1940, he was first trained in the medical service before being commissioned in signals and intelligence-gathering. In this role he took a small unit to the Normandy beachhead, and enjoyed the camping conditions beamed by his colleagues. He was then posted to India, which he immediately loved, and developed a close feeling for the culture and poor workers of the sub-continent.

After a brief return to his job in Surrey, he took advantage of the one-year emergency retraining scheme to study and qualify as a teacher. He became a successful and highly valued teacher, specialising first in Physical Education and subsequently in English and remedial work in various Surrey comprehensive schools, until his retirement in 1975.

While still at college he had taken a leading part in establishing children's camps at Forest School's new base in Norfolk, where it had moved in 1938. It had been imprac-

tical to restart the school after its wartime closure, but the camps, known as Forest School Camps, struck an immediate chord with parents. They appreciated the simple but challenging experience for children aged six to 17 of sleeping in small tents on the ground, living with basic amenities, learning to use tools, to make fires for warmth and cooking and above all, to form for a fortnight a close and democratic community where every individual had his or her place and value.

Brand's administrative skills and energy led, in 1956, to his becoming the organising General Secretary. He had a clear vision of the educational value of the camps and provided inspiring personal leadership, but also he gave the camps an administrative base through which, by the 1960s, around 1,000 children a year were camping and taking part in some 20 activities.

The standing camps, each of about 65 children, were the founda-

tion hut the more adventurous participants went on to mobile activities, such as canoeing, cycling and lightweight hiking, both in this country and in Europe. Brand himself pioneered and led many of these camps and activities.

He remained General Secretary until soon after he retired from the children's activities in his seventies. He then undertook to organise an annual International Workcamp for young adults, mainly from Eastern Europe. He organised and led these from 1984 until his last camp, at the age of 81, still sleeping in his lightweight tent on the hard ground and still the first up to light the kitchen fire and sing the camp awake.

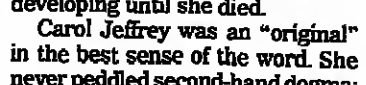
All his life Brand was active in politics, fired by the ideals of socialism and care for the underprivileged, first in the Independent Labour Party and then for years as a local supporter of the Communist Party. During the 1980s he was appointed OBE "for services to education" but refused it, unhappy with both the principle of the award and the Thatcher government's policies on education.

Ron Brand will be remembered by thousands of people, by the friends of his youth in the OWC and at Forest School, by the pupils to whom he gave so much and by the campers for whom "Beefy" was an inspirational figure who changed their lives.

RUPERT HEDGECOCK

Ronald Arthur Brand, teacher and youth leader; born London 30 July 1910; General Secretary, Forest School Camps 1956-86; married 1936 Ellen Meatyard (two sons, one daughter); died Salisbury, Wiltshire 12 October 1998.

Sang the camp awake at 81



## Carol Jeffrey



Jeffrey aged 99. She retired only three years earlier

*True to her childhood nickname - 'That Why Child' - she remained wide open to new ideas well into her hundredth year*

FEW AUTHORS publish their first book at the age of 99; fewer still would take as its title the nickname her teachers gave her as a schoolgirl. But Carol Jeffrey was unusual in all that she did in her life. Her book *That Why Child* was published in 1996, two years after her retirement in 1994. It won widespread acclaim in the psychoanalytic and educational press, and in 1997 received the Gradiva Award for best book in the Childhood Related section from the National Association for the Advancement of Psychoanalysis in the United States.

*That Why Child* contains the distilled essence of Carol Jeffrey's experience and practice. She started a career as a teacher but, following the then custom, had to give it up when she had her own children. However, she refused to give up the work altogether, started teaching at home (she had been educated at home herself, by her mother, until she was 15), and became particularly interested in children with emotional difficulties.

This led to training in psycholo-

gy and work in the pioneering Child Guidance Service in Kent in the 1940s. In 1949 she began a prolonged psychoanalysis with Michael Fordham, a colleague of Carl Jung, whose writings she studied in depth and with whom she also entered into correspondence.

In 1952 Jeffrey came into contact with Dr Graham Howe and, with Dr R.D. Laing, Dr Tom Farewell and

others, they founded the Open Way - a centre in west London dedicated to study, research and training for people dealing with the mental and emotional problems of human life.

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## Barbara Acklin

**"HAVE YOU Seen Her"**, a melancholic, haunting ballad by the Chi-Lites, is amongst the best soul records of all time. Eugene Record's switch from wistful narration to soaring falsetto is perfect as he recounts how he took love for granted: "With all the people I know, I'm still a lonely man." The song was written by Record and another soul singer, Barbara Acklin.

Acklin was born into a musical family in Chicago in 1944. Her grandmother was the blues singer Asa Esbridge, and her cousin the arranger and keyboard player Monk Higgins, although neither performer is known in the UK. Her parents encouraged her to sing and she was a soloist by the age of 11 in the choir of the New Zion Baptist Church. A few years later, she was working clubs on the South Side of Chicago.

After graduation, Barbara worked as a secretary for St Lawrence Records and sang background vocals for their productions. Her first single, produced by Monk Higgins, was under the pseudonym of Barbara Allen. Moving to the legendary Chess label, also in Chicago, she sang background vocals for such soul stalwarts as Etta James, Minnie Riperton, Fontella Bass and Koko Taylor.

In 1966 Acklin was working as a receptionist in Chicago for Brunswick Records. She submitted demonstration records of her own compositions to the label's main producer, Carl Davis. He liked a song that she had written with David Scott of the Five Dtones called "Whispers (Gettin' Louder)". Jackie Wilson, whose long run of US successes had ended, recorded the song and it restored him to the US Top Twenty after a three-year absence. Surprisingly, the record was not a UK hit, although it has now become a dance-floor favourite.

Jackie Wilson was so grateful that he told Acklin, "Let me know if there is anything I can do for you." She replied, "Tell Carl Davis to give me a recording contract." And that's what happened. Her first two singles for Brunswick flopped, but then a duet with Gene Chandler of "Duke of Earl" fame, "Show Me the Way To Go", made the Rhythm & Blues chart.

Acklin started writing with another Brunswick artist, Eugene Record, and they wrote a US Top Forty hit for Peaches and Herb, "Two Little Kids" (1968). Record also produced Acklin's version of "Love Makes a Woman". This catchy single with its brassy arrangement became a US Top Twenty hit. It was nominated for a Grammy but lost to Aretha Franklin's "Chain of Fools".

"Love Makes a Woman" was followed by "Just Ain't No Love" and further duet with Chandler, "From the

Teacher to the Preacher" (both 1968). *Love Makes a Woman* (1968) and *Seven Days of Night* (1969) are highly rated soul albums, and they have recently been combined on one CD for a UK release.

Her excellent single of "Am I the Same Girl" (1968) was also produced by Eugene Record. Dusty Springfield covered the song and took it into the UK Top Fifty, but its fate in America is much more intriguing. The musicians on Acklin's version included Eldee Young (bass) and Isaac Holt (drums). Brunswick were so taken by the backing track that they released it separately and it made No 3 in America under the name of "Soulful Strut" by Young-Holt Unlimited.

Acklin released further albums for Brunswick, namely, *Someone Else's Arms* (1970), *I Did It* (1971) and *I Call It*

*Now married, Record and Acklin together wrote songs including 'Stoned Out of My Mind' - with its memorable line 'I was a back-seat driver in the car of love'*

*Trouble* (1973). One of her most amusing songs was "I'll Bake Me a Man" (1973). Eugene Record was impressed by Isaac Hayes's 1969 album, *Hot Buttered Soul*, which is arguably the first rap record as Hayes prefaces his songs with extended monologues. Record and his group, the Chi-Lites, recorded a five-minute ballad, "Have You Seen Her", in a similar groove but it was only released on an LP. Radio stations picked up on the song's unusual vibes and when Brunswick realised that a cover version by Frankie and the Spindles might take the sales, they released the Chi-Lites' original as a single. The Chi-Lites' "Have You Seen Her" was a US No 3 in 1971 and it has made the UK Top Ten twice in 1972 and 1973.

By now, Record and Acklin were married and they wrote together for the Chi-Lites including "Stoned Out of My Mind" (1973, with its memorable line "I



Range and passion

Michael Ochs Archives / Redferns

was a back-seat driver in the car of love") and "Toby" (1974). However, Eugene Record longed for a solo career and, since that time, he has oscillated between solo performances and rejoining the Chi-Lites. The Chi-Lites amounted to little without him, but, by then, the Stylistics had become the champions of sweet soul music.

Acklin moved to Capitol Records in 1974 but her singles "Raindrops" and "Special Loving" met with no success. She recorded an album, *A Place in the Sun*, before the label dropped her in 1975. She joined her husband's own label, Chi-Sound, in 1980, and recorded further tracks with Gene Chandler. Barbara Acklin had hardly recorded under her own name since that time, although she did contribute backing vocals to the album *The Gospel Truth* (1993) by another soul singer based in Chicago, Otis Clay. She worked on the

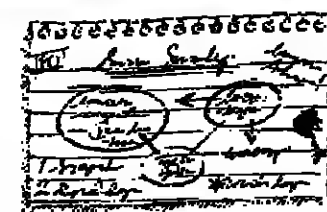
road as a backing singer for Tyrone Davis and as a manager for Holly Maxwell. Ike Turner's replacement for Tina.

In 1982 the Jam recorded "Stoned Out of My Mind" and an updated version of "Have You Seen Her" was a 1980 Top Ten hit for the rapper MC Hammer. In 1992 "Am I the Same Girl" was a Top Thirty UK hit for Swing Out Sister.

Barbara Acklin was a fine singer and performer and, despite her success, she could have, and should have, achieved more. She had warmth, range and passion in her voice, and with the right promotion and more application, she could have rivalled the soul diva Dionne Warwick.

SPENCER LEIGH

Barbara Acklin, singer, born Chicago, Illinois 23 February 1944; married Eugene Record; died Omaha, Nebraska 27 November 1998.



### FARMING NOTES

PAUL HEINEY

## The cow cannot put a hoof wrong

WHEN I mention to people that I have written a book in which the heroine is a cow, they consistently tell me there is nothing unusual in that. Lots of heroines are utter cows, whether the author appreciates it or not: Vonny Fair's Becky Sharp, Scarlett O'Hara of *Gone with the Wind* and that arch-cow Lady Macbeth. They think I am describing a protagonist who is a nasty piece of work, deceitful and manipulative and stubborn.

The recipe for disrespect is to take a hefty pinch of bovine flavouring and sprinkle freely. Daft cows, silly old moos; cowboy builders, lying bullshitters. Somewhere in the bovine world there is an insult to fit any situation: in America, baseball players who hold the bat hands reversed are called cow-handed. On the dance floor, beware the cow-footed. Cows can't do anything right.

That is not how I think about cows, after knowing several of them pretty well. It is true that their moo has less martial glamour than a horse's whinny. I admit that when they run they look silly - legs flying, udders swinging, tails high in the air, eyes wide to bursting point. The worst thing that can be said of a horse is that "it trots like a cow". But the cow is a giving, gentle creature, from whom the milk of kindness flows twice daily. Cows are companionable, calm and collected when allowed to live

life on their own terms. And if they never appear to be troubled much by thought, envy them their peace of mind. Treated with respect they are faithful servants. For me they cannot put a cloven hoof wrong. If anyone on our farm gets called a cow, they glow at the compliment.

I sometimes wonder how many are left who hold the cow in some esteem. Few animals have fallen so far, so fast, in public appreciation. How quickly we have forgotten what a friend she has been. Did she not lift us to higher planes of civilisation long ago, by allowing us to harness her and her brethren to pull ploughs and carts? Does she not give us milk to drink? And, when dead, hequeath us meat and leather? So fundamental was the cow to early civilisations that Sanskrit scholars translate "soldier" from the literal "one who fights about cows". Morning was the "calling of the cattle" and evening was the "milk time".

If her reputation has collapsed in the last decade, it is hardly the cow's fault. In our well-fed, bloated affluence where efficiency of food production counts for everything and compassion for very little, when animals have been reduced to the status of machinery not only by farmers but also by the consumers who expect ever cheaper food, we have delivered the cow an insulting slap around her soft, whiskery mouth, and then turned away with a shrug from her disgrace and death. We thought we knew better than she did about how she should be fed, so we put before this herbivore a plateful of infected meat. It sent her mad. To add insult to injury, we tried to pretend it had never happened by heaping millions of cows into incinerators and letting the flames smother our conscience.

Mud sticks. Ask any cow. It will be a long time before anyone is going to feel the same about these lovely beasts, after the repeated television showing of the staggering and suffering of the crazed ones, and the suspicion (unproved, as yet, remember) that the dementia we gave them can pass to humans through their meat. There has been much mud flying around over the past few months as the BSE inquiry started to point accusing fingers at ministers, civil servants and farmers. And then there are those who pointed to themselves as innocent victims of the other side. But, in all the argument, no one heard or will hear from the cow. She has no voice. Until we have made our peace with the cow and remembered to value her for what she is and what she has given to humanity, we will carry the burden of our guilt. Let cows be heroines again.

Paul Heiney is author of *Dominio's Effect* (Coronet, £5.99)

## GAZETTE

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

#### BIRTHS

AYRES: To David Jay and Christine Russell, on 5 December, a son, Anthony Steven, first grandchild for Patricia and David Jay, and the fourth for Carol and Gary. "May your heart be always joyful."

#### DEATHS

AL-KADHIMI: Rabab Abdel Mohsen, daughter of Abdel Mohsen Al-Kadhimi, the Arab poet, beloved mother of Lubna and one of the late Mohsen Chadrhiri. On Wednesday 9 December at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, London, Friday 11 December from the Regent's Park Mosque at noon.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £8.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, Marriages), are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen opens the restored Sun Pavilion in Valley Gardens, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, walks through the pedestrianised area of Oxford Street, Harrogate, and visits Harrogate Theatre, where the dress rehearsal for *Aladdin* will be in progress; visits Farrah's toffee factory, Harrogate; and, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, visits the Northern Police Convalescent Home, to mark its centenary, and visits Harrogate District Hospital, to mark its completion. The Duke of Edinburgh visits Knaresborough Working Men's Club, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire; and visits GSPK Electronics, Knaresborough. The Prince of Wales, President of the Prince's Trust, presents the Prince's Trust - Bro Awards 1998 at St James's Palace, and attends the film premiere of *The Mask of Zorro* at the Odeon, Leicester Square, London WC2; and attends a reception to mark the centenary of the National Clean Air Society at the Banqueting House, London SW1.

#### BIRTHDAYS

Sir Scott Baker, High Court judge, 61; Sir John Birt, Director-General of the BBC, 54; Mr Kenneth Branagh, actor, 38; Mr Harry Cohen MP, 49; Sir John Collins, chief executive, Vestey Group, 57; Professor Barrington Cunliffe, archaeologist, 59; Mrs Ann Gloag, co-founder, Stagecoach Holdings, 56; Lord Harris of High Cross, founder President, Institute of Economic Affairs, 74; Lord Japhet, former MP, 68; Sir David Kelly, chairman, Kelly Packaging, 62; Miss Joan Kenworthy, Principal, St Mary's College, Durham, 65; Mr Jahangir Khan, squash champion, 35; Mr Nicolas Kynaston, concert organist, 57; The Right Rev Richard Lewis, Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, 55; Mr James McAdam, chairman, Signet Group, 68; Mr Ralphael Makin, sculptor, 61; Sir Jeremy Morse, former chairman of Lloyds Bank, 70; Professor Howard Newby, Vice-Chancellor, Southampton University, 51; Sir John Peel, former surgeon-gynaecologist to the Queen, 94; Mr Raymond Plummer, ex-President and Honorary Director of the Design and

Industries Association, 62; Sir Angus Stirling, former Chairman, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, 65; Mr Colin Turner, former Rector, Glasgow Academy, 65; Mr Michael Wright, writer, 62.

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: César-Auguste Franck, composer, 1822; Emily Elizabeth Dickinson, poet, 1830; Ernest Howard Shepard, illustrator of *Winnie the Pooh*, 1903; Mary Pearson Norton, children's writer (author of *The Borrowers*), 1903; Dorothy Lamour (Mary Letta Stalon Kaumeyer), actress, 1914. Deaths: Alfred Bernhard Nobel, industrialist and philanthropist, 1896; Charles Rennie Mackintosh, architect and painter, 1928; Luigi Pirandello, playwright and novelist, 1936; Alfred Damon Runyon, writer, 1946. On this day: the Gregorian calendar was adopted in France, 1582; the first pneumatic tyres were patented by Robert Thomson, 1845; the first Nobel Prizes were awarded, 1901; the Aswan Dam in Egypt was opened, 1902; the National Farmers' Union was founded, 1908; King Edward VIII abdicated, and

became Duke of Windsor, 1936; the UN General Assembly issued the Declaration of Human Rights, 1948. Today is the Feast Day of St Edmund Gerlings, St Eulalia of Merida, St Eustace White, St Gregory III, pope, St John Roberts, Saints Mannas, Hermogenes and Euphrasius, St Melchior or Miltiades, St Polydore Plauden and St Swithin Wells.

#### LECTURES

National Gallery: Stephen Pepper, "The Carracci (ii): new light on the Farnese Gallery", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Imogen Stewart, "Indian Textiles and their influence in Europe, 1670-1720", 2pm. Tate Gallery: James Malpas, "Ornament as Crime: Klimt vs Matisse", 1pm. British Museum: Lorna Oakes, "The Entry into Canaan", 11.30am. National Portrait Gallery: Mary Connolly, "Plots and Scandals (vi): the Jacobites and their rebellions", 1.10pm. Wallace Collection, London W1: Miranda Neave, "Introduction to Sévres Porcelain", 1pm. South Place Ethical Society, at the Conway Hall,

London WC1: Jonathan Freedland and Peter Hitchens debate the fate of monarchy, 7pm.

#### RECEPTIONS

HM Government Mrs Barbara Roche MP, Minister for Small Firms, Trade and Industry, was the host at a reception held yesterday at Lancaster House, London SW1, to mark the Inaugural Meeting of the Egyptian British Business Council.

#### LUNCHEONS

HM Government Mr George Robertson MP, Secretary of State for Defence, was the host at a luncheon given yesterday at Lancaster House, London SW1, in honour of Mr Frank de Grave, Minister for Defence of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

English-Speaking Union Sir Edward Heath MP spoke at an English-Speaking Union Luncheon held yesterday at Dartmouth House, London W1. Baroness Brigstocke, ESU Chairman, presided, Mr Richard Gray, Delegate-General of Quebec, also spoke.

Princess Alexandra attends a Gala Evening in aid of the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) at the Museum für Angewandte Kunst (The MAK), Vienna, Austria.

#### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Irish Guards.

## Brevity is a virtue in a summing-up

### THURSDAY LAW REPORT 10 DECEMBER 1998

Regina v Farr  
*Court of Appeal*  
(Lord Justice Rose,  
Vice-President,  
Mr Justice Roush and  
Mr Justice Johnson)  
8 November 1998

was unbalanced and generally unfair in tone to the defendant, and, furthermore, the judge had made a succession of comments adverse to the defence; (ii) the judge's direction to the jury on the defendant's good character was inadequate in form and was in any event undermined by what the judge said subsequently.

Jeffrey Pegden QC and Patrick Gibbs (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for the defendant; Ian Glen QC and Jane Miller (Crown Prosecution Service) for the Crown.

Lord Justice Rose VP said that the summing-up, following a 13-day trial, had lasted for just over an hour. That in itself afforded no ground for legitimate complaint. On the contrary, brevity in summing-up, as in examination or cross-examination of witnesses and in counsel's speeches, was a virtue, not a vice.

It could not be too strongly emphasised that a judge was under no obligation, when summing-up, to rehearse all the evidence or all the arguments. Generally speaking, the longer a trial lasted the greater would be the jury's need for assistance

from the judge in relation to the evidence. Many jurors did not have the experience, ability or opportunity of a judge to note significant evidence and to cross-reference evidence from different sources which related to the same issue.

Accordingly, in a trial lasting several days or more it was generally of assistance to a jury if the judge summarised those factual issues which were not disputed and, where there was significant dispute as to the material facts, identified succinctly those pieces of evidence which were in conflict. By so doing, the judge could focus the jury's attention on those factual issues which they had to resolve.

It was never appropriate, however, for a summing-up to be a mere rehearsal of evidence. The court did not and would not look favourably on appeals based merely on a judge's failure to refer to particular pieces of evidence or particular arguments by counsel.

In the present case, however, the summing-up regrettably did not strike the reader as well-structured, nor did it give the impression of fairness and balance, having many of the characteristics of a speech for the Crown. Several important aspects of the defence were not referred to at all. Moreover, the direction on the defendant's good character was at the heart of the case, the importance of that direction was self-evident. The convictions would, accordingly, be quashed, but a retrial would be ordered.

KATE O'HANLON  
Barrister

AND SO this is Christmas, and end-of-lease stores are infested with fly-by-night merchants, their goods counterfeited, if not stolen. Moreover, these gougers do not sweat themselves but fill the doorways with loudspeakers which broadcast spiel on a tape-loop. The device should be known as a Barker, which

### WORDS CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE barker, n.

one had always thought to be an American term for a fairground hawk, but which in fact goes back to 17th-century England.

As J.C. Hotten put it, this was a man "employed to cry at the doors of gaffs, shows, and puffing shops, to entice people inside". Absent, though, from the OED are the American usages of *barker* as a shoe (a logical development from feet as dngs) and a word set in a larger type than the headline below it.



DILEMMAS  
WITH VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

## How do I cope with loneliness?

Sandra is in her fifties. Her husband died two years ago and although her life is full of friends, classes, a job and loving grown-up children, she still feels unbearably lonely and says 'being alone just isn't me'. The weekends are particularly difficult. Her doctor says that she isn't depressed. But she longs for someone just to be 'there' for her. What can she do?

## VIRGINIA'S ADVICE

There are two ways out of the sad, lonely hole that Sandra finds herself in. One is to try to replace what she's lost; the other is to rebuild her life as a single woman.

Neither of these is easy. It's difficult to find a new partner at this age, particularly if you're a bit shy. Some dating agencies even refuse to take on women over 50, however much money they're prepared to pay, a fact that I find horrifying, being a mere chicken myself at the tender age of 54.

She could get a dog, two dogs, five

dogs - or take up animal rescue. She could become a carer for couples with disabled children, allowing them to have a break for the odd week. In other words she could decide to live her life from now on as one of sacrifice.

Or she could make a commitment to discovering the secret of being able to live happily on her own. She says, "it just isn't me", but we are all basically on our own. Being on her own is exactly that, the art of "being me".

And while there are thousands of lonely men and women around the country, there are equally thousands of

men and women who love being on their own for weeks, pottering around their gardens, mending and painting, reading, knitting and - well, heaven knows what.

Myself, I never understand how anyone can occupy themselves for more than a day without human contact, but I know it can be done because I've not only witnessed it but, occasionally, experienced it.

I suggest that there are several things preventing Sandra from "being me". One is that she hasn't yet found any resolution after her husband's death, and that perhaps there are depths of sorrow

that she hasn't yet plumbed. Or perhaps she is basically an unhappy, unresolved person who, while she was married, distracted herself from her own problems of "being me" by preoccupation with her husband. Now the chickens have come home to roost.

Rather than looking for things outside herself to take the pain of "being me" away, she should look inside herself at that pain. In other words, at the risk of sounding like some harpy guru, the way out is in. At the risk of sounding even more crackers, I don't think there is any way to "be me" without feeling that you

are or have been loved, even if it was for only a small amount of time. It could be by a child, or an animal, or God, or anything else. Perhaps Sandra could recollect how much her husband loved her, rather than dwell on how much she's lost.

These thoughts, by the way, are based on sheer, practical, personal experience, not from hours sitting cross-legged saying "Om".

Moving house might help. While Sandra is in the home that she and her husband shared, she can see the gaps in her life as clearly as the pictures on the walls. New surroundings, new

furniture, different light - all of this would help to make it clear to Sandra that she is starting out on a new phase of her life. And to stop herself falling into a mire of gloom, she should keep dates and treats ahead so that she always has something to look forward to when she feels low.

It's so easy to write. But with time, Sandra may experience just the odd hour of contentment on her own. These moments can be blissful.

And once she gets the hang of it, they will, slowly, increase. She may, in the end, wonder how she was ever able to live with anyone at all.

## READERS' SUGGESTIONS

Grieve, then move on. My heart went out to Sandra. My lovely husband died three-and-a-half years ago, when I was 54.

Sandra's mind is probably cluttered with the past, and she doesn't want to forget or let go. I got into such a state that I wrote a book about my marriage - it started out as a letter to my children, so they would know who their parents were when we'd both gone. I wrote down all my memories, good and bad. I wept buckets, but moved on after that.

My weekends were a nightmare, too, and I was desperately lonely. So I went to work in a zoo as a volunteer. There are lots of things to do at weekends in the voluntary sector. It feels very odd and "wrong" at first, but you have to persevere. The people you meet see you, not half of a pair. JACKY JOHNSTON  
Winchester, Hampshire

Self-pity will not help. For a start, stop griping; at least you have your health. I'm unable to work

because I suffer the painful, disabling condition of fibromyalgia. I have been widowed for 12 years and have learnt to respect the independence.

Go out and find yourself a mate, or try an Open University course. It will stretch your mind and you won't have time to feel sorry for yourself. MRS JACQUELINE FLEA  
Burnley, Lancashire

Remember your husband's love. I'm in a similar situation, at 70, but gradually I'm finding comfort. I plot the time when I am on my own. I write letters, read, sew, watch TV, phone family and friends. But most important of all I remind myself how much my husband loved and admired me, and how he would hate me to be miserable. I know he would be proud to see how I cope with life as it is now. ANONYMOUS

The answer is to get a dog. Sandra is suffering from unrequited love. It's not surprising that she finds her life empty.

Please suggest that she gets herself a dog - or preferably two dogs. They will give her all the love she can cope with, and fill her life with happiness.

PHIL JOHNSON  
Pinner, Middlesex

Live close to others like yourself. I have had the same feelings and experiences as Sandra.

One possibility is still a pipe-dream, and that is to find some place to live in a community of like-minded people that offers scope for privacy. I know that purpose-built retirement homes plan for this, but I don't want to wait till then! Let's have more designed for people like us in our fifties, who can so often find ourselves living in reluctant isolation. NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

## NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia, My son, although well qualified and with lots of short-term contract work, is unable to get himself a mortgage. We are lucky enough to be able to buy him a small flat. I want to buy it outright but my husband feels we ought to pay back the rest over time. My parents say he should work his way up from nothing, as they did. What do you

think would be best for my son? Yours sincerely, Angela

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora. Please send letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; fax 0171-293 2182; e-mail dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for the bouquet



## Beauty and the bump

Pregnant women are swapping smocks for sexy slips. But have our attitudes really changed? By Louise France

WHEN THE pregnant Spice Girls, Posh and Scary, arrived at the launch party for Marco Pierre White's new restaurant earlier this week, there would have been two very different responses from other women.

Some would have looked at the two young pop stars, all fecund curves and voluptuous cleavages, and thought: Great! Just because you're pregnant doesn't mean you have to wear pastel-coloured tent dresses for nine months.

But I predict that others - especially any woman in the third trimester of her pregnancy who feels the size of a Ford Transit van - would be thinking: Great! But I bet Scary's high heels are murder.

It seems a long time since Goldie Hawn hid behind a screen at the Oscars because she thought she'd never work again if the Hollywood producers caught sight of her pregnant. This year alone has seen Mel

Blatt of All Saints do the midriff top and combat trouser look. The Spice Girls have done Lycra and spangles. The television presenter Tania Bryer may have concealed her pregnancy for eight months, but when she did go public she chose Gucci, a designer label not known for its comfy, elasticated waistbands.

All these women epitomise a new, liberated attitude to pregnancy which, for once, spreads further than the weird world of the celebrity. Eight years ago Karen Calen, beauty director of the women's magazine Red, remembers going, while pregnant, to a nightclub in Los Angeles wearing a short, skin-tight Azzeidine Alaia dress. "This guy stopped me and told me I shouldn't even be out of the house in my condition, and I certainly shouldn't be out wearing that outfit."

She thinks times have changed,



On show: expectant Spice Girls (right) meet Prince Charles; Mel Blatt of All Saints on stage (above) John Stillwell

helped by public figures such as Yasmin Le Bon, and Neneh Cherry who famously appeared on Top of the Pops when practically on her way to the birthing pool. "Women are feeling much freer than they used to," says Karen. "I enjoyed being pregnant. I was into the way my body felt. It was empowering. I became more exhibitionist, rather than less."

Certainly there's more choice for women who don't want to do the navy-blue-marque look. High-street labels such as Dorothy Perkins and H&M have maternity lines. Forrester, a French-run maternity wear company, was launched in Britain seven years ago. Their best-sellers include PVC trousers - with cunning, stretchy waistbands - and mock-fur miniskirts. For once in your life you can stick your tummy out rather than suck it in. Rachel Shatlock, editor of the motherhood mag-



azine M, says: "Gone are the days when a pregnant woman suddenly became invisible. You can be glamorous, just as you were before you got pregnant."

And yet, for all this enlightened late-Nineties attitude, it would be a mistake to think that pregnant women have suddenly got it made. The Spice Girls have to sell records. We'd be more shocked if Mel B appeared in an outside woody and a pair of fluffy-legged leggings.

And with more women choosing to work up to their due date, many of these enlightened views have been brought about out of necessity rather than a desire to politicise the pregnant woman. Alice Farmer, a solicitor, realised that she wouldn't be taken seriously at work if she didn't make an effort with her appearance. "There's a tendency to infantilise women who are pregnant, and the

traditional uniform - the dungarees, the sailor suits, the pretty flowery patterns - is all part of that. "There's a presumption that as soon as you get pregnant you aren't up to the job. I deliberately thought about what I was wearing, more so than I might have done before. I wore more hard-edged clothes in order to be taken seriously."

Indeed, anyone who has been pregnant may have wondered quite what kind of night Posh Spice and Mel B really had. Certainly, once she was at her table Mel B would have taken her shoes off. Your centre of gravity changes when you're pregnant, and high heels mean you're more likely to fall over. They also make your back ache. And how Posh got away with not wearing a bra amazed some women. "When I was pregnant I wore a bra continually, even in bed," recalls one.

Perhaps we're in danger of doing what we've always done to pregnant women: lump them all together. Put it this way: Mothercare will not be trading in sailor-collar dresses for maternity boob tubes.

Susie Orbach is the authority on women and body image: "It depends what type of pregnancy you're having. Some women feel fantastic. Others hate their bodies. You can't even judge your reaction by the way you felt about body image before you got pregnant. For some women, who have distorted ideas about body shape a pregnancy can be a healing thing. For others it's very difficult."

Good luck to the Spices, but perhaps we should look elsewhere for signs of enlightenment. When Mel B is photographed breast-feeding in the Met Bar we'll know that attitudes to women and motherhood have really changed.

## POETIC LICENCE

BEOWULF'S RETURN TO THE ESTUARY  
BY MARTIN NEWELL

ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL HEATH

A Kentish archaeologist says that the epic Anglo-Saxon poem 'Beowulf' was not set in southern Scandinavia, as previously thought, but that it preserves a memory of 5th-century Germanic raids on south-east England, whose main action was centred near the Thames Estuary.



Thus spoke Beowulf son of Edgetheow:

So the Hwylf and I and our three scyldren took the hring broad. Hwylf was a mistæc Bumper-to-bumper through the Dartford Tunnel. Fynally eonding up near Grays. An healing nightmaer! The scyldren at each others hthroats and the Hwylf bewailing the loss of her Hratzner's gold signum, given to her by Hrothgar, eoffer the Great Feast hwen he hyospitalised her brothere Hwayne.

On the hway back to Gyllinghjam, we stopped in at a Harvestyr - hwylf was packed and then into a Mead Hall, eoffer I dropped off Hwylf and scyldren. Three flasks in and a mighty battle started. This was because of some warriors just off a longship at Chatham. One of these hwas well eout-of-ordur, adorned with gold, tattooed around the hneck and sheouting the odds.

I mean, there hwas only me, Hygelac The Bald and Welnaf. Welnaf, fearsome in his Scyll-suit is a hit naughty in a hruc and says to this doughnut: "Oi gæzer! Are you calling me a Cout?" That hwas it. The hwole thing went pear-scyaped. Then came this Grendel. Took a Styanley Knife to Hygelac and geassed Welnaf in the fyace. In absence of a shootyr, I took a poolcyu to the beorstard and he hwent down.

Back at Hrothgar's hall, Hrothgar said: "That won't be the eond of it, you mark my hwords." Scyre enuf, two days later, I'm leaving the Mead Hall when Dærren says: "Oi Beowulf, there is a great fyre in the Carpeork. I looked and The Grendel had torched my Feord Escyort."

Eoffer that I loeft it. Since Welnaf's brother put the hword eout that He hwil deal with the Grendel. But quietly. And the Hwylf doesn't hwant my two hyears suspended being brought up agæen. So that hwas that.



# Lieder of the pack

It's just three years since Ian Bostridge gave up his day job for a career as a singer. But the star of Sadler's Wells' new production of *The Bartered Bride* could be one of the best finds in years. By Edward Seckerson

Ian Bostridge's voice and physique are a good fit. He sounds as he looks and looks as he sounds: exceptionally tall, lean and fresh-faced. His vocal delivery is disarmingly direct - an open, pristine, inquisitive timbre; wide-eyed and yet sophisticated. As a singer of songs - and, in that, his star is fast rising internationally, making him the most exciting British prospect in years - Bostridge has that rare ability simultaneously to convey innocence and experience, wonder and worldliness.

He was the shyly obsessive miller boy of Schubert's song-cycle *Die Schöne Müllerin* - everybody's favourite *Lieder* recording of 1996. He sounded the part. He grew up before our ears, infatuation turning to obsession turning to disillusionment. The detail in his singing was simply astonishing. Had we also seen him, his expressive face and willowy frame would further have suspended disbelief. In David Alden's controversial Channel 4 film of Schubert's *Winterreise* (*Winter Journey*), he stalked our imaginations as the poet stalking the winter of his despair. As Peter Quint in Deborah Warner's acclaimed Royal Opera staging of Benjamin Britten's *The Turn of the Screw*, he found a way of moving through the action that was neither quite spirit nor flesh. On the concert platform or stage, he is an ethereal presence: not quite there physically; all there intellectually.

There's still something slightly incongruous about Ian Bostridge, as if the body were made bespoke for an academic and only later adapted for a stage performer. But it is a quality that he can, and does, use to his advantage. As for intellect, the brainless tenor cliché was never going to apply here. Indeed, it was a close call at one point as to whether Bostridge would take the path of writer and academic (his doctoral thesis, *Witchcraft and its Transformations c1650 to c1770*, was revised as a book - so now you know why he spooked you) or make a profession of his pastime, singing.

In the event, he never really had to choose between words and music: he opted for them both. There were adjustments to be made, techniques to be initiated and developed. He had no formal training, only basic singing lessons, to sustain him. As if to reaffirm that he was a scholar first and a singer second, he tended to sing "from the neck upwards". He needed to engage his body, learn to exercise muscles he had, in short, his athletic mind advised his sedentary body that it had some catching up to do. And if the decorum of the recital platform was not so far removed from halls of academia at Corpus Christi, Oxford, the operatic stage would prove much more of a stretch.

But Bostridge has come a long way in the three or so years since he effectively gave up the day job. From feeling like he was "undergoing remedial therapy for the terminally wooden", his stage work has come on in leaps and bounds. He's looking like a couple of operas a year: Mozart, Monteverdi, Tom Rakewell in Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress* (who might, if he were Bostridge, sell



Ian Bostridge, tenor, bright hope of British singing - although he'd sometimes rather be a baritone

Laurie Lewis

his soul to sing Siegfried). When we meet, he is tentatively feeling his way through rehearsals for Francesca Zambello's new production of Smetana's *The Bartered Bride*. At least, as Vasek, the opera's enchantingly silly and transparently gullest dupe, he is: tentative is as self-assured as Vasek gets. He stutters his way through comic arias marked "lamentoso". He is gangly and inarticulate. Bostridge is working on the inarticulate.

The "not knowing what to do with your hands" stage is behind him now (though Vasek might disagree). Directors such as David Alden and Deborah Warner have, in their very

different ways, unknotted the inhibitions in him. Their trust has been his undoing, so to speak. Alden - whose highly expressionistic, "operatic" way has always courted controversy - urged him to tap into the emotional energy of a piece by pushing at the physical extremes. Warner, on the other hand, encouraged him simply to "claim his space", be himself and use himself to create someone else. "Deborah isn't interested in actors putting on characters like costumes," says Bostridge. "She's interested in keeping the rehearsal process alive in performance, in keeping the possibilities open. She always maintained

that if you could precisely define a moment, then it was theatrically dead. And that was a revelation for someone like me who was apt to analyse everything to death."

The Warner/Bostridge partnership is set to continue with a "staging" of Janacek's dramatic song-cycle *The Diary of One Who Disappeared* in a new translation by Seamus Heaney (to be seen in London, Paris, and New York). Warner's experience with Fiona Shaw in TS Eliot's *The Waste Land* fuelled her fascination for the theatrical potential of narrative poetry.

But taking Alden's experiment with *Winterreise* as a guide, how the-

atrical, how public, is it possible to be with works whose potency is in their privacy, their inwardness? Bostridge cites the baritone *Lieder* singer Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau's remark that he considered it "almost impertinent to sing *Winterreise* in public". "I rejected that view as pre-tentious gobbledeygook," says Bostridge, "until I tried performing it to a paying audience that included my own father. I felt strangely embarrassed. There was an element of voyeurism about the whole experience. But that's what's fascinating about a work like *Winterreise*: it's this incredibly delicate balance between self-indulgence and objectiv-

ity. There's an edge to Müller's poetry, an ability to pull back from itself, to turn self-pity into self-mocking. Without the black humour, cynicism, irony - and you, the performer, have to ensure that it's there - you're left with a long, boring "winter moan". Or perhaps, for a tenor, that should be "winter whine". Bostridge sometimes wishes he were a baritone: "It's much closer to speaking, and therefore much easier to carry the words..."

And the words - pointed, enriched, elevated, by the "rightness" of the musical line - are everything. Which raises the question of recording. Bostridge has a healthy respect for it. And he has a good contract with EMI which, he claims, buys him generous, unharassed session time. Pressure is the enemy. What he strives for in a recording is not even achievable in singer-friendly venues such as London's Wigmore Hall. It has to do with "returning the music to the domestic sphere where it originated", re-creating that real sense of drawing-room intimacy, or even of someone "whispering in your ear". It's an opportunity to re-imagine works, provided, says Bostridge, you remember that records are made to be repeated. "You have to be aware of that. You might be less inclined to risk those moments in the concert hall where you depart from the sung line to achieve a declamatory effect. Similarly, you might be less inclined to use intonation to create weird flattenings or sharpenings of pitch for expressive effect. That kind of thing can pall with repetition."

Bostridge's voice does not. But it is possessed of a peculiarly "English" demeanour and that provokes allergic reactions in some. Words like "prim" and "precious" are bandied about by those who find it hard, if not impossible, to get beyond the distinctive colour of the sound. The French are sniffy about his German lied; the Germans think it's the cat's whiskers. Bostridge is philosophical. It's the only voice he has: he can't change it; he doesn't despise it. He raises the spectre of Peter Pears, a resourceful singer who was increasingly at odds with his idiosyncratic - and much-maligned - voice. And yet it was that voice on which Benjamin Britten tailored some of this century's greatest song writing.

Bostridge is in no doubt about that this already substantial Britten discography bears it out. Or indeed of the ferocious technical difficulties that sat so well for Pears (around E-F#sharp, the part of the voice that most tenors want to avoid) but for nobody else. Which is why when we hear Britten we hear Pears, and when we hear Pears we hear Dndley Moore (remember *Beyond the Fringe*?). Bostridge tells of a Pears masterclass in which he instructed a young tenor in the colouring of an extremely difficult phrase from Britten's *Winter Words*: "More yowl," he urged. "More y-o-w-l."

Happily, Bostridge is, as yet, a yowl-free zone.

The Royal Opera's *Bartered Bride* opens at 7pm tonight, then runs in rep with Rimsky-Korsakov's *The Golden Cockerel* to 14 Jan, at Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (0171-863 8000). The 19 Dec is broadcast live on BBC2 and Radio 3

## The gentle touch

CLASSICAL

JEAN-PHILIPPE  
COLLARD GEH:  
FAZIL SAY  
WIGMORE HALL, LONDON

IT'S EASY to take a pianist such as Jean-Philippe Collard for granted. For 30 years he has been the epitome of stately French fingers, impeccably trained, a little cool. Collard's solo recital at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Sunday afternoon was his first in London for four years. He is pretty impressive. He's rather a scientific player, and throughout the Theme of Fauré's Op 73 Variations he introduced a rhythmic hiccup every two or three bars which seemed designed to give this strong and noble music some secretive touch of magic, like a couturier's tuck.

Yet usually, his approach is straightforward. He slipped through Fauré's second Impromptu with the easiest fluency, and his performance of Ravel's *Sonatine* was a model of its kind: poised and limpid, with sonorities effortlessly graded from brightness to melting softness. In *Oiseaux tristes* he flicked a finger upwards as if riding the key of a speck of dirt, but the sound was a haunting, hell-like resonance.

Collard has for long been known as a fine Rachmaninov player. Now he has moved on to Scriabin, and he devoted the second part of his recital to him. He didn't quite keep the teeming cauldron of the *Fantasie in B minor* under control, but disguised a small memory lapse very cleverly, and *Vers la flamme* and the *Prélude et Nocturne*, Op 9, for left hand were beautifully judged, while in the *prestissimo* *Volando* of the Fourth Sonata's second movement, Collard achieved the sort of feathery lightness that eluded the composer himself, if his recordings are anything to go by.

On Monday at the Wigmore Hall, the Turkish pianist Fazil Say played Bach in the first half of his programme with bulging variations of volume - mainly very loud. Mozart's F major Sonata, K330, was similarly bold and unsubtle, though Say showed a little more sensitivity in the central minor section of the *Andante*. For the most part, his playing was physically aggressive and expressively primitive, and beneath the storm-tossed surface of the Alban Berg Sonata he didn't show much sense of line.

Say finished with a group of his own pieces, which suggested that his career might take a different direction from the classical repertoire, towards jazz fusion. A short set of variations on Paganini's 24th Caprice and his own irreverently jazzy paraphrase of Mozart's Turkish Rondo really galvanised the audience for the first time in the whole evening, while another piece with a moody, oriental incantation framing a central section which was reminiscent of Chick Corea pointed to possibilities of more extended improvisations. A bit of a loose cannon.

ADRIAN JACK

## Martin Guerre: the face saver

THE OLD adage that musicals aren't written but rewritten applies with unflagging force to *Martin Guerre*, which now emerges in its third incarnation. Conal Morrison's strikingly darker and more involving production at the West Yorkshire Playhouse. There were grown men in the audience who had seen this Bouill/Schönberg show 32 times. And it sometimes feels as though we critics have attended as many opening nights for it.

The saga began in the summer of 1996 when the Cameron Mackintosh musical premiered in the West End. The reviews were distinctly unenthusiastic and the piece was substantially revised on the hoof for a relaunch in the November of that year. The legend of a man who usurps the name and the wife of a friend he sees die in battle would seem to invite a show about the teasing elusiveness of identity and love.

But such a subtle, fugitive subject does not suit the open-throated, four-square musical talents of the duo who gave us *Les Misérables* and *Miss Saigon*. Accordingly, the first revision furthered the process whereby the background

**THEATRE**  
MARTIN GUERRE  
WEST YORKSHIRE  
PLAYHOUSE

turned into the foreground. It became clearer that the main impostor in the piece (relocated to the 16th-century wars of religion) was the self-serving, self-deceiving Catholic community which foists Martin's identity on the stranger to keep its grasp on the land. These improvements did not, however, save the show from an early demise last February.

And now the latest resurrection. Everything about this version, and its staging, is sharper and more focused. Instead of opening with a proscenium arch, gauzy scrims and pictorial peasants miming work, it begins in the thick of the war on a grim, cannon-dominated thrust stage, made intimate by a surrounding wall of mobile wooden planks that become tongued with flame in the final debacle.

The love story and the theme of religious division are for the first time, tightly integrated. The benighted Catholic



Martin Guerre: third time lucky for Conal Morrison

superstition that drives Martin to the wars and greedily recruits his substitute is intensified. Stephen Weller's Martin is brutally whipped and exorcised for supposedly bringing a blight to the land through not consummating his marriage. The arrival of Matthew Cam-

melle's sensitive, virile, beautifully sung Arnaud coincides with a thunderstorm which convinces them he is a rain-bringing redeemer.

On the music front, extremely shrewd lessons have been learnt from past mistakes, and there are some art-

ful recyclings. That plangent duet, "Here Comes the Morning", always sounded like a gay love song when delivered by the two male leads on the battlefield. It now makes much more emotional sense as an aching expression of the painful triangle that is formed when Martin returns, and Arnaud is thrown in prison. Likewise, the show's biggest number, "And All I Know", which seemed a simplistic and over-hasty declaration of love in the original, is rewritten and held back until the very end of the first half when this duet is forced, thrillingly, to battle against the bigotry of the assembled chorus.

In a rich, stirring voice, Joanna Riding gives the role of Bertrande a hitherto unsuspected subtlety. And as for the peasant stomp-dancing, having been re-choreographed and pared back by David Bolger, it no longer (so to speak) clogs things up. It can be said: Ce n'est pas "Martin Guerre", mais c'est magnifique.

PAUL TAYLOR

A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper



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## FILM

## Zorro? He used to be someone

## THE BIG PICTURE



ANTHONY QUINN

**THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)**  
DIRECTOR: MARTIN CAMPBELL  
STARRING: ANTONIO BANDERAS,  
ANTHONY HOPKINS, CATHERINE  
ZETA-JONES  
137 MINS

Now that most of the Marvel Comic standards have been used up, Hollywood is obliged to scout further into its own past for action heroes. While few will recall Douglas Fairbanks as Zorro in the 1920 silent film, the idea of a black-caped freedom fighter with the signature slashed Z always looked ripe for a modern makeover. Martin Campbell's lavish rendering of the Man in the Mask is certainly a crowd-pleaser, and positively revels in its magpie pick'n'mix composition. Indeed, the sense of déjà vu will be overpowering to anyone who has seen an action adventure movie in the last 20 years.

The setting is Los Angeles in the 1840s. Twenty years previously Don Diego de la Vega (Anthony Hopkins) was unmasked as the legendary swordsman Zorro and thrown into jail by the former Spanish governor, Don Rafael Montero (Stuart Wilson), who had his adversary's wife murdered, his infant daughter abducted and his property burned. Now Zorro has escaped, but being a bit long in the tooth to resume his battle with the forces of oppression, he seeks a pupil to continue the struggle. Meanwhile, a swarthy bandit named Alejandro (Antonio Banderas) is reeling drunkenly around town vowing to avenge the murder of his brother. What does he know of sword-fighting? Only that "the pointy end goes into the other man" - on which assurance Zorro decides that he has found his successor.

Hopkins, with his grey locks and wise eyes, appropriately has the look of a latter-day Merlin, a magician who will initiate his charge into the mysteries of swordplay, plus all the right-on stuff like duty, honour and table manners. The film proceeds to tip its hat to a variety of other influences: the vast cavern where Zorro trains Alejandro recalls nothing so much as the Bal Cave, and the master-scholarship relationship of Batman to Robin was also characterised by the wearing of masks. Later, when Montero reveals to his fellow does a scheme for an independent California (built on slave labour, naturally), the giant map he unfurls and the huge round table they sit around have the whiff of a Bond movie - the villain outlining his plans for world domination to an assembly of international crooks. The climactic sequence outside a goldmine, involving



Young blade: Antonio Banderas gets to don the famous mask as Anthony Hopkins's anointed successor in the swashbuckling epic, 'The Mask of Zorro'

scores of ragged labourers gestures, unconsciously or not, to the Nazis' desert encampment in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

The most obvious analogy of all, however, is with our own favourite outlaw Robin Hood, another nobleman-turned-bandit-prince. Montero is Zorro's Sheriff of Nottingham, while the raven-haired Elena (Catherine Zeta-Jones), the daughter Montero stole from Zorro 20 years before, is Maid Marian. The Z which is left inscribed upon doorposts is the equivalent of the arrow that comes twanging out of nowhere onto Nottingham's banquet table: a calling-card of righteousness. Yet there is a crucial and quite puzzling disparity between Zorro and Hood. While both are heroes to the poor and downtrodden, the one famously relies upon camp followers (and they didn't come much camper than Errol Flynn's gaily-stockinged Merrie Men in *The Adventures of Robin Hood*), the other is a determined individualist who abjures the notion of teamwork.

Which leads us to the question: what does Zorro actually do? Without help of any sort, what can he do? True, crowds of Latino peasants regularly cheer his name as their liberator, and in the film's opening set-piece Hopkins saves three men from the firing-squad. Until the very end, however, we are offered no evidence of his role as

a local saviour. While Banderas slowly finds his feet as Zorro's anointed, it's less a case of derring-do as derring-don't. The filmmakers would seem to be under the illusion that slapstick has been recently invented. How we laugh as Zorro the younger tries jumping off a wall on to his horse and falls on his backside! Slap a thigh when the horse bolts and throws him off! They even have the nerve to try that ancient routine wherein a man is jumped upon all at once by a gang of assailants and then crawls away from under the scrum unnoticed. Hilarious.

Is it too late to mention that *The Mask of Zorro* is also pretty enjoyable? Despite

the fact that Campbell and his three screenwriters often appear reluctant to seek alternatives to a cliché, the film barrels along at a fair clip, and knows how to stage a spectacle. The clack of the castanets as Banderas and Zeta-Jones do the fandango has a hot-blooded thrill all of its own, later matched by their equally flirtatious sword fight. The pair meet the director's most important requirement - being easy on the eye - but they're good sports about keeping a straight face amid so much theatrical twaddle. You always worry about what Hopkins might do in these circumstances; generally, the bigger the movie, the hamnier the performance (see, or rather don't, *Amistad*,

*Nixon* and *Legends of the Fall*). Here he mercifully decides to underact, relying upon those piercing eyes and his trademark chuckle. That it won't earn him an Oscar nomination is a salute to his restraint.

So it's at least half-an-hour too long, overloaded with borrowings from other movies and riven with countless absurdities (there's another - given that Zorro uses only a sword, why doesn't anybody take the obvious expedient and simply shoot him?). *The Mask of Zorro* sweeps you along despite itself. If you see only one swashbuckling epic this year, make sure it's *Le Bossu* with the great Daniel Auteuil. If you see another, make it this.

## ALSO SHOWING

PLAYING GOD ANDY WILSON (18) ■ THE BOYS ROWAN WOODS (18) ■ THE TEXAS CHAIN SAW MASSACRE TOBE HOOPER (18) ■ THE PARENT TRAP NANCY MEYERS (PG)

THE LAST movie surgeon to make a big deal about his power over life and death was Alec Baldwin in *Molice*. When he was accused of "playing God" in the operating room, Baldwin denied it. "I am God," he countered. In *Playing God*, the LA surgeon Eugene Sands (David Duchovny) has no such delusions: he's been struck off for losing a patient while out of his tree on drugs. The suspicion that the clear-eyed, fresh-faced Duchovny doesn't look much like an addict - his one concession to the junkie demeanour is to skip shaving for a day - probably didn't bother the director, Andy Wilson, who must have thought it was Christmas when the *X-Files* star signed on.

Visiting a seamy club one evening for his regular fix, Eugene saves a man's life by impromptu surgery on a gunshot wound. This good deed brings him into the orbit of a flamboyant gangster, Raymond (Timothy Hutton), who decides to put the disgraced surgeon on the payroll as his paramedic; that Raymond's girlfriend Claire (Angelina Jolie) also befriends him puts an edge on their association. The film gradually forces a dilemma upon Eugene: either he must throw in his lot with the underworld, or become a snitch for the FBI, which has him over a barrel for practising without a licence. To reign in hell or to serve in heaven? Problem is, as Eugene reflects: "Hell doesn't always look like hell. On a good day, it can look like L.A."

Given that Eugene is plainly a nice guy, the audience isn't exactly racked with anxiety as regards his moral decisiveness, and looks for distraction elsewhere. For instance, it's hard to ignore the rock-star chic of Timothy Hutton's cheesy gold jewellery and flapping silk shirts, or the daft mockney stings of his chief goon (Brit actor Andrew Tiernan, who has the further misfortune of playing a heavy

named Cyril, Cyril!). I was also mesmerised by the cushiony lips of the newcomer Angelina Jolie, which are either a great natural beauty spot or a new development in bee stings. While the performances are generally pretty good, the director seems more interested in spitting around the fake gore than in probing character - there's a fascination in the sheer bloodiness of gut wounds that recalls (heavy sigh) *Reservoir Dogs*. On the bright side, *Playing God* never bores; Duchovny's languid tenacity keeps the film ticking over, and the rare sight of Hutton playing the villain lends tone.

Based on Gordon Graham's award-winning play, *The Boys* is a bleakly powerful study in male insecurity and violence. Having served a year in prison for assault, Brett (David Wenham) returns home to the dismal suburbs of western Sydney to find things have changed. He suspects his girlfriend Michelle (Toni Collette) has been playing around in his absence, and suspects one of his two shiftless brothers, Glenn (John Polson) or Stevie (Anthony Hayes), of stealing his stash. Trying to keep the peace

in the household's increasingly volatile atmosphere is the defeated mother (Lynette Curran), whose weariness is eloquent of the way she both loves and fears "the boys". The director Rowan Woods



The Texas Chain Saw Massacre: never in any real danger of becoming sophisticated

friend Michelle (Toni Collette) has been playing around in his absence, and suspects one of his two shiftless brothers, Glenn (John Polson) or Stevie (Anthony Hayes), of stealing his stash. Trying to keep the peace

and the writer Stephen Sewell never let us forget the rage that simmers just below the beer-swilling horendom: deploying complicated time-shifts, Woods flashes back and forward around the act of savagery towards which the film has been building. The acting has a rawness to back up his conception. As Brett, David Wenham occasionally wrongfoots expectations by suggesting a capability for tenderness, as when he comforts Stevie's pregnant, neglected girlfriend (Anna Lise). But nobody will be fooled for long: this is a portrait of unregenerate criminality. Cast stand-out is Toni Collette as the sullen, watchful Michelle, realising at last the danger of being around this family. *The Boys* is a dark and uncompromising achievement, though absolutely not what you'd call a great night at the flicks.

I'd never seen Tobe Hooper's notorious 1974 shocker *The Texas Chain Saw Massacre*

until this week, and must confess I wasn't prepared for all the screaming that goes on. It's a simple but crudely effective tale of five teenagers who happen upon a remote farmstead and one by one meet a grisly fate at the hands of a cannibalistic hillbilly clan. The scene in which one of the victims stumbles into the clan's living-room - it's a grotesque museum of human bones and chicken feathers - is racked up to unearthly levels of horror by an insistent, keening soundtrack. The drama is never in any danger of being sophisticated, though the sight of a terrified girl being chased through the night by a masked pursuer with a chain-saw is one of the purest representations of nightmare you're ever likely to see. All told, Hooper's film must have done more damage to the rural Texas holiday industry than anything aside from an actual visit to Texas.

*The Parent Trap* is a warm-

ing of Christmas movies to come. Revamping Disney's 1961 comedy, it's a soft-centred yarn about identical twin sisters (both played by Lindsay Lohan) trying to reunite their estranged parents after an 11-year separation, during which the sisters lived, unknown to them, on either side of the Atlantic. Dad is a Napa Valley vintner (Dennis Quaid), Mum is a South Ken dress designer (Natalie Richardson), and the business of getting them back together entails picturesque rooms around upper-crust California and tourist London. If the outcome ever felt uncertain, one look at Quaid's rapacious blonde fiancée (Elaine Hendrix) should be enough to dispel doubts, though the two hour-plus running-time will surely have its diminutive target audience chafing long before the end.

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**RUSHES**

SEAN PENN is reported to be having an awful time on the set of Woody Allen's as-yet-untitled current production, according to the *New York Daily News*.

Penn plays a jazz trumpeter in the Thirties - when he turns up on set, that is. So bad did relations get between him and veteran Woody collaborator, producer Jean Doumanian, that Penn took to calling in sick on a number of shoots last month.

With the production already a month behind schedule, the situation, said production sources, was one the producers were no longer going to put up with: "They basically said, 'We'll cancel the rest of the shoot and sue [Penn] for the cost of the whole movie.'" Penn is now turning up, but the on-set tension apparently continues.

STAR WARS fans in Britain will next week have a brief chance to see the cinema trailer for the first installment of the new trilogy. The two-minute trailer for *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace* - which is already available on the Internet - will be screened before evening showings of *The Mask of Zorro* next Wednesday, and before all Thursday showings of the film in selected cinemas around the country. Times and venues are yet to be confirmed but Virgin's website ([www.virgin.net](http://www.virgin.net)) will carry up-to-date details.



# The great white shark of Tinseltown

Jeffrey Katzenberg reckons his new Dreamworks animation, *The Prince of Egypt*, is an epic to rival De Mille's. But then Bible-bashing is a competitive sport in Hollywood. By Roger Clarke

Katzenberg is having a tricky time at the Dorchester. An army of British journalists are asking him all about Hollywood business deals and really very little about the movie he's over to promote, the animated feature version of Exodus, *The Prince of Egypt*. "Ask me about the movie," he says grimly, over and over, grinding those magnificent oceanic incisors and allowing a black film to settle over his eyes. But no one is listening. It's not everyday that a real-life Hollywood shark swims into town and allows himself to be interviewed by the piranhas.

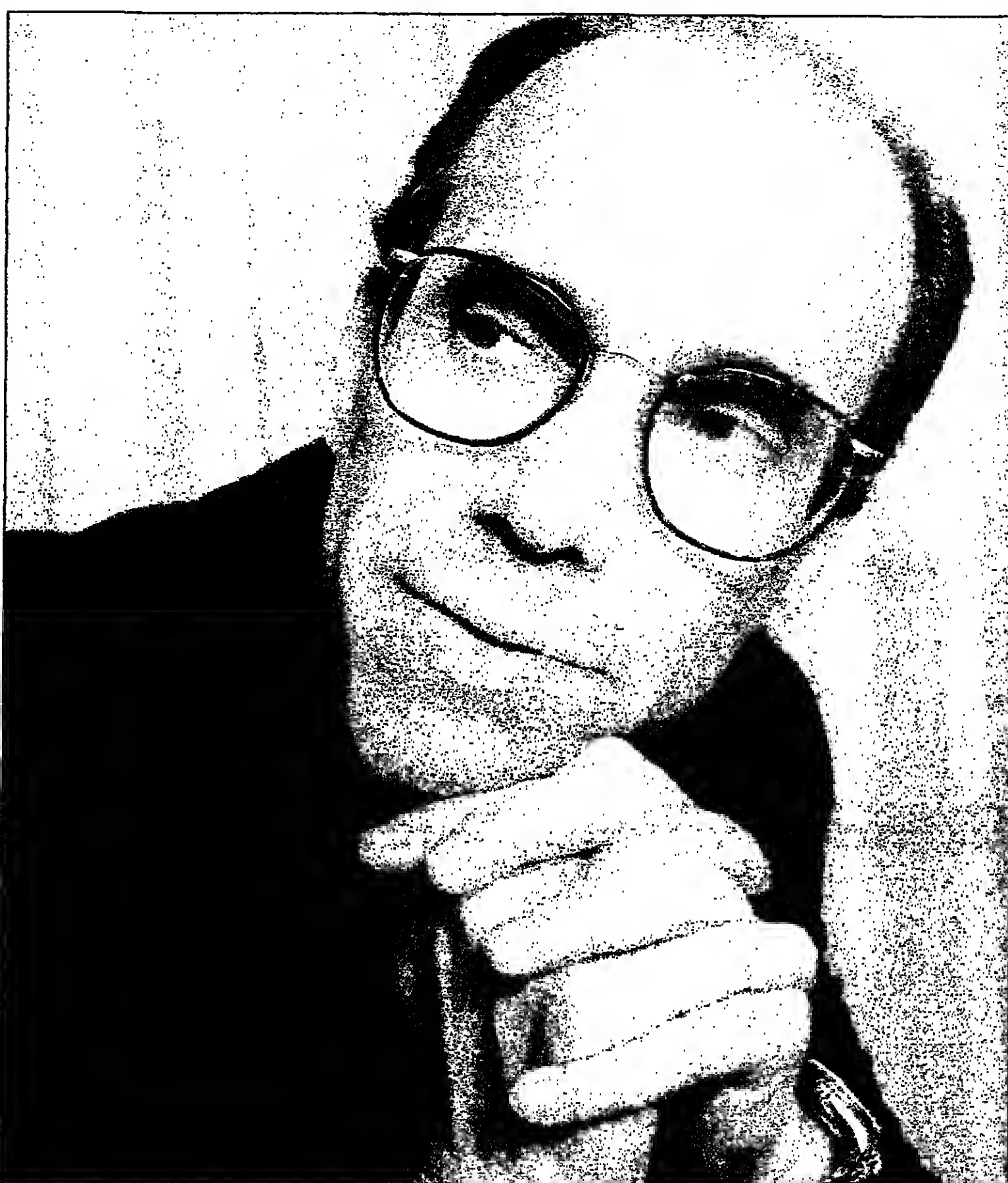
Jeffrey Katzenberg is the legendary 47-year-old cartoon czar who increased Disney's profits by 2,500 per cent (with movies such as *The Lion King*), and went on to found the first new Hollywood studio since its pre-war heydays. Dreamworks SKG was formed in October 1994 with the media mogul David Geffen, the director Steven Spielberg and Katzenberg himself. Needless to say, Katzenberg has everything to prove in the partnership: he even mortgaged his house to raise the \$33m downpayment on his share of the company, a mere bagatelle for the immensely more wealthy Spielberg and Geffen.

"I want to make them proud of me," Katzenberg says, as usual, Mr Sentiment with acid for blood. Spielberg and Geffen proud of him? You see, the great white shark of Tinseltown has this unexpected need to be fathered. He wants to hide his teeth, float to the sunlit surface, and be petted. When he resigned from Disney shortly after being denied the top job there in 1994, he angrily sued Disney for \$250m in percentages. This was only recently settled out of court. "It's about a father not being able to accept his son," Katzenberg laments.

*The Prince of Egypt* - very much a Katzenbergian tale of stern fathers and errant sons - was the first Dreamworks film to be commissioned. As its director of animation, it is the forge on which Katzenberg's mettle is to be tested. After a frankly disastrous start with *Amistad* and *The Peacemaker*, Spielberg rode to Dreamworks rescue with *Saving Private Ryan* (nicknamed "Saving Dreamworks SKG" - gross so far: \$420m). Add to that the comedy *Mousetrap*, *Antz* and the corny meteor yarn, *Deep Impact*, and the fledgling studio has had a much better year than founding giants such as Warner Bros.

Katzenberg drums the table in front on him when I mention this run of successes. It's a combination of the touch-wood reflex and a desire to beat a triumphant I-told-you-so tattoo. It is clear that he likes to be reminded that his gamble is paying off. "It's been a great year," he yells, more like Danny DeVito in *Get Shorty*, the popular stereotype of the Hollywood mogul, than the cool and careful LA businessman which is what one assumes him to be.

He's giving out mixed messages, though. He waxes lyrical on the glories of his pet project: how he employed 400 people to make it; how he employed 700 people to research it - "theologians, hieroglyph readers, scholars"; and how he came up with a spectacle to rival Cecil B De Mille. But then he resumes a black-finned, predatory demeanor in another part of the interview, assuring me coldly and without rancour that "if it bombs it isn't going to put the company in jeopardy - in a hard, cold light we'd have to look at what we'd done". These Hollywood sharks are strange beasts: when they scent blood, they swim in the opposite direction.



Katzenberg says that he wants to make his partners at Dreamworks, Geffen and Spielberg, 'proud of him'

Nicola Kurtz

I question him, as everyone does, on subjects other than the movie. For most of this year, Dreamworks has been involved in environmental wrangles over the site it has chosen for its 50-acre studio lot as part of the larger Playa Vista development project. In July, an LA court slapped an injunction on the bulldozers moving in on the coastal wetlands because some rare species live there. What were the animals, I asked, and what did he think about their environmentalist friends who held up essential building work? "The animals are known as pigs," he exclaims with bizarre ferocity. "Pigs to the trough - it's all about greed," he says, rubbishing the environmentalists as lackeys to various predatory business interests. Yikes. So there will be no animations about frogs, then. Especially with an eco-friendly Ferngully plot.

He drags me back to the subject of the movie. He talks with the inanities of the salesman convinced of his

pitch: of a salesman convinced that his corkscrew will answer all the world's ills. "Maybe the movie will give those who don't believe in miracles the hope that there were miracles, and can, or will be, miracles."

Didn't Moses marry a black woman, a Cushite from Ethiopia? How come Katzenberg passed up a golden opportunity to play the ethnicity card? "Go back to the movie. She is black! She couldn't be more black." Well yes, in a white kind of way. Black. If he'd made her a little too ebony, rather than just coffee-and-cream, perhaps he thought he'd offend some of the Jewish faith. Does he practise a religion? "I'm not answering that question," he said blankly. "I've told everyone involved in publicising the project not to bring issues of their own religious faith into it."

Well, this seems a little disingenuous, Mr Katzenberg. Surely this version of the Exodus story is patent Judeo-Christian proselytising? "For

the last 70 years, animation has been seen as fairy tales," he posits. "We wanted to do something that wasn't a fairy tale - no dancing teapots." I suggest that someone of the humanist persuasion would see the Exodus story itself as little more than a fairy tale. "They are so insignificant," he counters with a snap of his jaw, imagining them as so much seafood. "Some people believe anything. This story is the foundation of faith for two-thirds of the world's population. It's not a fairy story in any respect."

It's clear where Katzenberg's agenda lies, even in his carefully worded PR release. "I hope audiences have a great time," he writes, "but I hope this movie engages them to want to know more about the story." In other words, Bible studies for everyone.

I present Katzenberg with the critique of Exodus by the über-rake, the Marquis de Sade: how could one of the plagues of Egypt have killed all the horses, when we see horses bearing

the Pharaoh's army in pursuit of the Israelites to the Red Sea? He won't answer the question and glares horribly at me. Oh well, I'm being churlish, I suppose. Not sufficiently respectful. In Hollywood, Katzenberg would have told me I'd never eat lunch in his town again, but luckily we're far from the warm waters of his customary cruising ground.

Later, Katzenberg is telling me about an upcoming animation project when I interject. "I know, it's called *El Dorado*, and it's about..." He continues to tell me what it's all about, but as he does, the title starts giggling away at me. It's only later that I realised why that is. Back in 1994, Steven Spielberg said to *The New Yorker*: "Jeffrey Katzenberg's exit will be Michael Eisner's Machiavellian loss - and Corporation X's *El Dorado*."

Corporation X is now making *El Dorado*. Tough luck on Disney? If the overblown *Prince of Egypt* is anything to go by, maybe not.

## Two into one will go - spookily

Twins. They're weird, mixed up and look similar. Let's make a movie! By Charlotte O'Sullivan



Jeremy Irons as Bev and Elliot Mantle in 'Dead Ringers'

TWINS: CINEMA has always been drawn to these exclusive, visually confounding creatures. The affair continues this week with *The Parent Trap*, a Nineties update of the gooey 1961 Hayley Mills vehicle. But don't be put off: such offerings belong to the anodyne wing of a wonderfully off-beat obsession.

Twins (particularly identical ones) are a shorthand, a means to explore identity, whether in the material world (*The Prince and the Pauper* plot) or deep within the soul (the good vs evil dynamic). Life-swapping is the dream twins can make real and the line "You don't seem quite yourself today" is a bedrock of the movies. Twins, in other words, embody our crooked confusions - beautiful but freakish. Look at how few twins are actually used in films: it's the concept we like, not the reality.

The best directors turn such conventions inside out. In Tod Browning's *Freaks*, for example, Siamese twins Daisy and Violet Hilton play themselves. Violet is all charismatic defiance, Daisy

paranoid orbs are drawn towards the looking glass, you know she's a moral goner. What follows is ludicrously OTT. Jealous Edie demands Maggie come to her greasy apartment, where she shoots her. With a gothic harpsichord gibbering in the background, Edie drags the lights from Maggie's dead legs, then fiercely combs water through her back-combed hair. It's worthy of a *French and Saunders* skit, yet powerful. The doomed, insecure desire to adopt another's personality sends shivers down all our spines. And what a great moment of recognition for Bette's draggy, corpse-robbing fans.

By the Seventies and Eighties, the psychological mists had all but evaporated. Instead, we get semi-pornographic flicks: *Twins of Evil*, *Twinsanity*...Thankfully, David Cronenberg's 1988 classic *Dead Ringers* re-introduced the mystery, providing Jeremy Irons with his best roles.

Like *Freaks* and even *Dead Ringer*, *Dead Ringers* transforms our sense of the "unnatural". The story of two brothers, Bev and Elliot, joined

*In Hollywood, identical twins are a form of shorthand, a means to explore identity*

at the brain, it is most un-American (try imagining a John Wayne cowboy movie in which an identical twin shows up). The fact that the boys have girls' names is also significant.

In one of the hullest moments, Daisy sits with her eyes rapturously closed as her sister is kissed. With Claire (Genevieve Bujold) - the first person to make him want to separate from arrogant Elliot. He has a dream in which he and Elliot are joined by an umbilical cord - an ugly, ragged bit of flesh which Claire, in order to release him, begins to chew. We're swept along by Bev's relaxed limbs and milky smile. Then comes the nightmare jolt - it can't be done, she's eating him. Psychologists would class such fears as pre-Oedipal. Here, that's the only state we're in and Cronenberg's tenderness towards his characters makes the resulting horror even more unbearable.

Twins continue to fascinate us, but with diminishing returns (see Jean-Claude Van-Damme's *Double Impact*). Should we despair? *Dead Ringers* was based on a true story and there are plenty more out there. A number of aging identical twins have plastic surgery to maintain their "identical" looks.

It's not re-makes of *The Parent Trap* we need. How about *Dead Ringers II - Under the Surgeon's Knife*?

### VIDEO NEWS

MIKE HIGGINS

**The Big Lebowski (18)**  
Available to rent now  
Jeff "the Dude" Lebowski (Jeff Bridges), a befuddled slacker, ought never to have ventured from his second home, the bowling alley. The moment he does, his eponymous millionaire namesake involves the Dude in an attempt to free his kidnapped wife in the Coen brothers' dazzling comic adventure. Before long, LA pornographers and gangs of German nihilists are threatening his life, a situation which the Dude's buddy, the Nam-obsessed, borderline psychotic Walter (John Goodman) can only exacerbate.  
Is this an elaborate



Jeff Bridges is The Dude

Coen joke, or a sneaky device to pack in a load of juicy parts? For that is all it would be - a few delicious sketches - were it not for the role of the Dude

himself, perfectly filled by Jeff Bridges. In a film of otherwise heartless fun, the Coens actually seem to care about the guy.

#### The Apostle (12)

available to rent from Fri  
When the wrath of eccentric evangelist preacher, Sonny Dewey (Robert Duvall), is brought down upon the head of his ex-wife's new partner in the form of a baseball bat, Sonny skips town and winds up in a Louisiana backwater. The citizens of Bay Boutte have never seen anything like the Apostle E.F. as Sonny now calls himself, and fall under his spell.

You keep waiting for Duvall's rambling character study to succumb to one of its sub-plots: Sonny's enduring love for his ex (Farrah Fawcett) and his kids; his burgeoning relationship with a local radio station employee (Miranda Richardson); or the antagonistic presence of a local redneck (Billy Bob Thornton). Instead, Duvall, in his second feature as director, foregoes the predictable plot complications to work wonders and produce a generous, non-judgemental portrait of a seriously unfashionable calling and milieu: a Deep South preacher-man.

DAVID WENHAM

TONI COLLETTE

DIRECTED BY ROWAN WOODS

the boys

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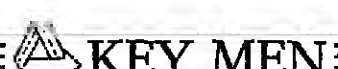
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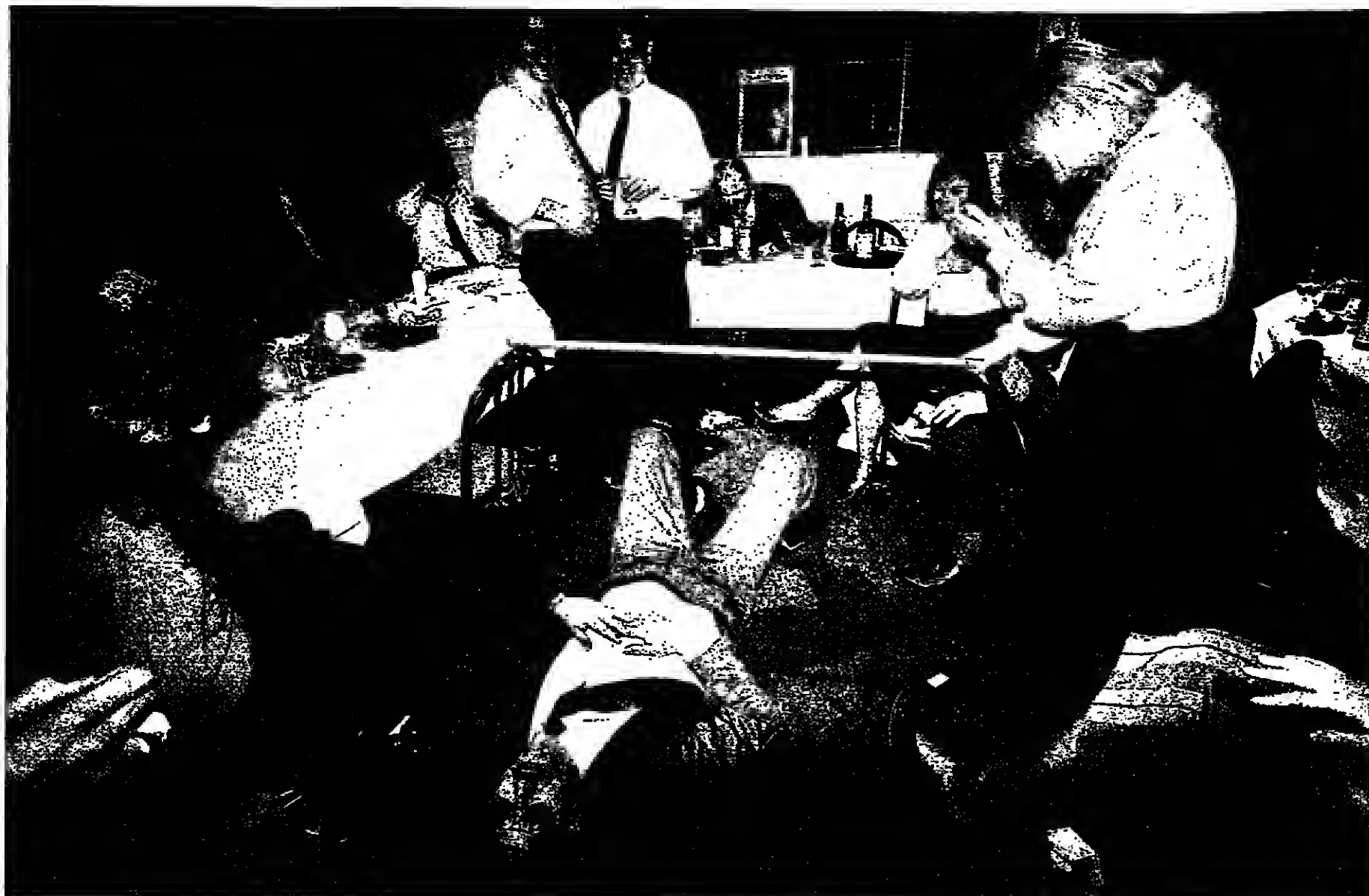


# 'Tis the season to be wary

Your first Christmas in employment can be tough: you're tired and overworked. And then there's the office party. By Lynne Butt

Christmas is fast approaching, and memories of previous festive seasons spent doing nothing but partying and sleeping for weeks can only bring a smile to your face. But as soon as the realisation sets in that Yuletide will never again remotely resemble such frivolous times, that warm glow can soon disappear. In fact, claim business psychologists, the first Christmas after leaving university can be the most shocking ever.

If you haven't yet embarked upon the career of your dreams, you'll find endless relatives asking you: why not? And if that's not enough to send you screaming into the night, you probably won't have the money to escape with drinking buddies. Gone are the days of being admitted to the pound-a-pint student union and,



The Christmas party can be a nightmare where graduates 'are forced to embrace company rituals, such as silly hats and cross-dressing'

Brian Harris

expected to fork out significant sums of money - often for the first time. "You're expected to participate in family rituals, even down to buying your mother an expensive, carefully chosen present instead of the dodgy box of soap which was acceptable when you were an impoverished student." Reminding them you're not yet a managing director may help, together with giving an early warning that you'll need to time to catch up with friends as well as doing the family thing.

Then there's that perennial minefield, the office party, to be negotiated, an area which graduates should approach with extreme caution. It can be a painful experience, admits Gill, as graduates must be seen to be having a good time, even if they'd rather not be there. "They are forced to embrace company rituals, wear silly hats, even

**Graduates should be wary of the office party - they must act as if they are having a good time even when they are not**

cross dress, which can all prove to be very tricky indeed."

Dr Pauline Reeve, a chartered psychologist from Worcester, warns graduates not to under any circumstances to take the easy option and get drunk. It's a mistake all too many make, she says, in a vain attempt to loosen up. Do a little people-watching instead, she suggests.

But even if the whole Christmas period seems like an endless series of potential catastrophes, it need not be all bad. In fact, it may stand you in good stead for next Christmas. James Elliott explains:

"In your first year, you are trying to impress and show how much you can do. I've learned to delegate more, and realise my limitations. I'm a department manager now, and with last year in mind, I'm treating both my team and the customers very gently."

**Absenteeism cost British business £11bn in 1997, and is most acute in January as a result of post-Christmas burn-out**

quite possibly, gone are your friends, off to pastures new.

But even if you have a job, it's unlikely to be a smooth ride. The seasonal break is getting longer - which ultimately means achieving more work in less time, to make up for it.

This is no mean feat when you consider that research consistently reveals that graduates are already the hardest workers.

Angela Mitchell is facing her first Christmas in the high-pressure world of market research. December at Hauck Research International, she admits, is deeply tiring. "It's more hectic than I expected, and I didn't realise people have to be out of the office so much. So it will be good to see things at a more normal pace in January."

But, claims Ben Williams, a psychologist, there are solutions. You may be coerced to accept

extra work because you're new and inexperienced, but you must be assertive with an unreasonable boss if you're getting no home life at all. Attempt to draw up an achievement plan with your employer and make sure it's clear just how much time you can take off. In addition, make use of time-management skills, prioritising work daily and delegating where possible.

This is essential, he claims, because contrary to Angela's belief,

January doesn't necessarily mark the end of it all - a fact that James Elliott knows all too well. Last Christmas was his first as a management trainee in the gift department of John Lewis. "When I joined, people kept saying to me, 'Just wait for Christmas'. But absolutely nothing can prepare you to cope with the sheer volume of customers and sales. And it doesn't stop on 24 December. Our sale begins three days later, so we have to turn

the store round in 24 hours. I found myself eating my Christmas Day meal worrying whether everything was ready for the sale."

According to a recent CBI survey, sponsored by Bupa, you don't have to be in retailing for the new year to be a nightmare. After all, many graduates are simply burnt out. Absenteeism cost British business £11bn in 1997, and the problem is always most acute in January. "People hang on until Christmas and

are then exhausted by the New Year," says Dr Kevin Holland-Elliott, Bupa's occupational health specialist. "Graduates are more vulnerable because they are going through a great period of transition."

Colin Gill, of Psychology Solutions, believes that striking a balance between work and home is the biggest challenge for graduates, not least because they have so recently taken on the status of an adult. "At university, celebrations are over by the be-

ginning of December, when you go home for a second Christmas," explains Mr Gill.

"Once you're working, however, the holiday doesn't start until Christmas Eve, when you're thrown together with family members you may not wish to see, and are away from your mates. But you're a mature wage-earner, so you've got to conform, no matter how pressured you are."

What's more, he says, you may be

Age: A vintage 238 (Lloyds); 188 (TSB); or just three if you count from the time that the two companies merged (1995).

History: John Taylor and Samuel Lloyd set up a private banking business in Birmingham which, 100 years later, became Lloyds Banking Company Ltd. Meanwhile, the sons of the original partners set up their own bank in London which, in 1884, was absorbed into the growing company, along with Bosanquet Salt & Co. By 1923, the company had made 50 takeovers. The bank was established in the UK's "Big Five", and, in 1955, acquired another business, which became Lloyds Bank Europe. In 1995, Cheltenham & Gloucester became part of the group; a few months later, Lloyds Bank Group merged with TSB Group to form the largest banking group in the UK.

Address: Main offices are in Lombard Street, central London (home

## A-Z OF EMPLOYERS LLOYDS TSB

of the grand Lloyds building) and in George Street, Edinburgh; there is also an administration centre in Bristol and the company has more than 2,600 branches nationwide.

Ambience: Most offices are open-plan and employees wear uniforms or suits.

Vital statistics: At the end of 1997, total group assets were £158bn, and group profits before tax were £3,162m. The group employs more than 82,500 people.

Lifestyle: Pretty much a nine-to-five-thirty existence, although those on the retail management development programme will be expected to work according to the current load, and may be required to relo-

cate. There are sports clubs and an annual National Sports Weekend.

Easy to get into? Out of 5,000 applicants this year, 120 places will be awarded. Up to 60 of these are on the retail management development programme; other placements are in marketing, human resources, finance, central operations, corporate banking and international banking. You will need at least a 2.2 degree in any discipline. Call 07000 783955 for further details.

Glittering alumni: Sir Jeremy Morse, a former bank chairman, was the inspiration for the now renowned *Inspector Morse*; his hobbies were crossword and chess. The poet TS Eliot was perhaps the most famous ex-employee; he was based

at Lombard Street in 1920, but left in 1925 to work for the publishing house Faber & Faber.

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Training: Lasts for two years on the management training development programmes. Training includes study - for banking exams, sales qualifications, a further degree or languages, for example - and trainees can gain accreditation from bodies such as CIMA and IPD.

Facilities: A spokeswoman says - with no apparent awareness of irony - that every branch has cashpoints. Handy, that.

Who's the boss? The chairman is Sir Brian Pitman, and the chief executive is Peter Ellwood.

RACHELLE THACKRAY

## I want to be more creative

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YOUR CAREER PROBLEMS SOLVED BY THE EXPERTS

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I am a very frustrated and disillusioned 30-year-old male, working in business development for a Japanese trading house. I am looking for guidance in terms of a switch in occupations - which would allow me to utilise my existing skills. I have a very good degree; several years' experience in sales/marketing/analysis; have worked abroad for the Government; have good Japanese language ability; and many interests beyond the workplace. My strength lies in my ability to communicate, organise, research and generate ideas. Ideally, I would love to get my creative side into gear. I have considered investigative journalism or something else media related - but I believe this may mean studying full-time again. Is a complete change a good idea?  
ANDY GOMEZ, SURREY

**The solutions**  
Sean Keeley, director of Psychometric Service Ltd (PSL) (0181-421 0115), says: The words "frustrated" and "disillusioned" suggest you do need change. However, before doing so, you must find out where your real strengths lie, by gaining an objective view. Career advisers and occupational psychologists can help. Using psychometric instruments, they can assess your abilities, personality traits and interests, and give you a better idea of likely success in a variety of occupational areas, as well as highlight areas that you didn't know existed. Make your choice on the basis of as much information as possible.

David Pedley, managing director of Wessex Training Ltd (01202-767176), says: An old Zen saying states: "Man stands in his own shadow and wonders why it's dark." We all

reach these shadow zones periodically, and need to realise how and why we have placed ourselves there. Unless we discover and act on the answers, the same frustrations have the potential to re-emerge. Our disillusionment is our dissatisfaction with the results of our own efforts, or lack of them, to influence a situation. So why not let your creative potential get into gear now and experiment, to discover new ways of getting real satisfaction out of your present career? Real personal satisfaction is emotional involvement - really caring about what we do. The alternatives are to walk away when the going gets tough, or to deny ourselves the right to job satisfaction.

Paul Roscorla, occupational psychologist, Adler Deboeck, says: Changing career direction often requires study, has serious

financial implications and - as people often forget - means rebuilding all your contacts. People know you as a business developer and you know people in that world. Talk this over with them - they might offer you another job! Be realistic in terms of the sacrifices you are prepared to make. Is the problem really the specific role you have? The comforting thing is that you describe yourself as qualified and talented. Once you have thought this through, identify actual job opportunities. Take action and stop mentally chewing this over.

INTERVIEWS BY  
CARMEN FIELDING

If you have a work problem and want expert advice, write to Carmen Fielding, Fast Track, Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; fax 0171-293 2451; e-mail c.fielding@independent.co.uk

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# What price justice?

The Access to Justice Bill is trying to make the legal system better and cheaper. By Linda Tsang

How much does it cost to have a justice system? According to the figures published by the Lord Chancellor's Department in its White Paper on modernising justice, there are 80,000 lawyers in private practice, with a total annual fee income of about £2bn. The work of all the courts and tribunals in the system is supported by 25,000 staff, and costs £900m a year to run. When the provision of legal services is presented as mere debit and credit figures, it inevitably gives rise to the accusation that the law reformers, like accountants, know the price of everything but the value of nothing – including a system of justice.

Lord Irvine of Lairg published the Access to Justice Bill last week, and both lawyers and consumer bodies have been digesting the proposals, and warning of the implications for the legal system and its users.

Vicki Chapman, head of policy at the Legal Action Group, says: "The Bill has the potential to be very good – it tackles the problem that the current system is too fragmented, and needs to be more integrated. The proposal to prioritise social welfare law and pull together the types of funding is also to be welcomed – but we need more detail."

The twin aims of the proposals are "to bring about a significant increase in access to justice, and obtain the best value for the taxpayers' money spent on legal services and the courts."

As Geoff Hoon, the minister of state in the Lord Chancellor's Department has commented: "It is no secret that lawyers are not terribly popular – most people would prefer taxpayers' money to be spent on hospitals. The twin criticisms of the Bill, from lawyers and the more outspoken MPs such as Austin Mitchell, is that the reforms are driven by cost-cutting, and are more likely to restrict access to justice."

A new body is to be set up, the Legal Services Commission, which will be responsible for establishing a Community Legal Service, and will co-ordinate the provision of legal services in every community, and match services to needs. The commission will also manage the Community Legal Service Fund, which will replace legal aid in civil and family cases. The commission will buy services for the public under contracts with lawyers and other providers, such as Citizens Advice Bureaux. Eligibility for getting help from the fund and for advice and assistance will be decided under a new funding assessment which will replace the existing merits test.

For those who do not qualify for help from the fund, the Government



How many cases would reach the High Court on a no-win, no-fee basis?

Kevin Lamarque

is developing more extensive legal insurance products, and is also proposing to extend and improve the existing conditional fees arrangements. Under a conditional fee agreement, the lawyer will be paid only if the case is won – a no-win, no-fee basis. An insurance policy will be taken out to cover the costs if the client loses, and this is currently funded by a one-off premium for cover up to £100,000. But, according to Michael Napier, senior partner at the law firm Irwin Mitchell, and chairman of the Law Society's civil litigation committee: "Conditional fees are not the complete answer to

run on that basis. It is for the lawyers to assess the risk of running the case, and because such cases take a long time, with the lawyers being responsible for disbursements during the case – which will normally be what the client opts for – it means that the risk must be accurately assessed."

"As the lawyer is taking a risk in taking on such a case, they are also entitled to claim a success fee, usually 25 per cent of the costs," Ms McCool explains.

"The White Paper has brought in a provision that the success fee be recoverable from the losing side,

number of excluded categories of case where no insurance is available, such as where proceedings have already been issued, and that can mean that they cannot proceed with the case because they have no public funds, and no insurance cover."

And that restriction of options in going to law is also the argument put forward in relation to the Government's proposals to bring legal aid costs under control by having fixed-price contracts, under which lawyers will have to estimate the cost of taking a case under a set budget. It is estimated that the number of contracts likely to be awarded will

ing the numbers of providers cannot be right if consumers can't get access to quality legal services. Quality without access is not quality, and access without quality is not access."

From the consumers' point of view, Marlene Winfield, senior policy officer at the National Consumer Council says: "Contracting gives the consumer both an indication of quality and of who can provide a quality service, and who can do that in a particular field – consumers do not always have that guidance. And the person who does your conveyancing is not necessarily the best person to deal with your personal injury case. It offers more guidance on who to go to, and the more quality controls there are, particularly coupled with the Lord Chancellor's proposals on kite-marking for the Community Legal Service, the more that will help the process."

"But our concern is that the changes should ensure that there is adequate access to legal services – the number of contracted solicitors will be smaller than at present. There has to be a proper strategy to ensure that the necessary services are available everywhere, geographically and in all areas of law."

In theory, the proposals sound fine. In practice, there is a lot of work which needs to be done. A careful balance needs to be struck between controlling the costs of legal aid (which is what is on the Government's agenda) and providing real access to justice."

*'Conditional fees are not the complete answer to every case, for example for smaller firms that cannot afford the risk'*

every case – for example for the client who cannot pay the premium, or for the smaller firms that cannot afford the risk of running a case on that basis."

The cases currently being heard in the High Court, brought by almost 50 plaintiffs against a number of tobacco companies, are being run on a basis of conditional fees. Geraldine McCool, a partner at Leigh Day – the firm which is acting in those cases – comments: "Under these proposals, the question would have to be how many of these cases you could

which will give them the right to query the level of the success fees agreed between the lawyer and the winning party, that could lead to problems."

She adds that the other concern in this area is that such agreements are still relatively recent, and everyone is "still on a steep learning curve in this area. Clients have to be taken through the whole process, and also have to be told what their obligations are under the insurance policy, and to read the fine print. That is vital as there are a

be to between 25 per cent and 50 per cent of the existing 10,000 law firms providing such advice. With the Commission in the process of developing contracts for both civil and criminal legal service providers, lawyers and consumer bodies have expressed concern about restricting choice and the issue of quality."

Irwin Mitchell's Mr Napier says: "The criterion for the providers to be awarded a contract does focus on quality, which has to be a priority, but it must be quality of advice and service as well as systems. But limit-

## Custody doesn't have to be a battle

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MARCUS DEARLE

DESPITE THE inevitable references to the film *Kramer vs Kramer* and recent over-excitement in the press about the case, the Court of Appeal decision on 25 November awarding a father custody of a two-year-old boy heralds no change in the law. There will be no surge in residence orders being made in favour of fathers. The floodgates stand as before.

It is true that the judge in the case, Mr Justice Cazalet, said that "fathers are much better equipped to look after children nowadays than they were some 10 years ago". But in 1990, in a leading Court of Appeal case, Lord Donaldson said much the same thing: "It is much more common for fathers to look after young children than it used to be in bygone days. It must follow that more fathers are equipped to undertake these sorts of duties than was formerly the case. From that it must follow that courts could more readily conclude in an individual case that it was in the interests of a young child that it be with its father than they would have done previously."

Lord Donaldson's comments were not meant to – and they did not – give a green light to give fathers a better chance of winning custody applications. He was simply underlining the fact that, in the right circumstances, courts will award custody to fathers. And so the position for fathers is the same now as it was in that case in 1990: although there is no rule, principle or presumption that a young child should always live with its mother, there needs to be some strong consideration against the mother for her to lose custody. Each case will be decided on its individual facts.

In the more recent case, the court was concerned that if the boy went to live with his mother, there was a serious risk that she might take him to live in India and remain there, preventing him from seeing his father. In contrast, the father was found to be more likely to allow the child to remain in contact with his mother. The father was held to be reliable; the mother was found to be untrustworthy. There was nothing particularly ground-breaking in this decision. It has not "given a boost to father power" as one newspaper has alleged. Unfortunately, all this hype and coverage is potentially damaging. It might trigger some fathers to launch knee-jerk and ill-judged residence applications with no reasonable prospects of success.

Any struggle involving the

family which goes through the courts is distressing and expensive, even more so if children are involved. Of course, in certain circumstances, going to court is unavoidable. Children might be at risk of serious physical harm, or a parent might be threatening to abduct them, and that is when it will be necessary to apply to court within hours for emergency orders to protect the children.

Fortunately, many separated parents are able to agree mutually acceptable custody arrangements and flexible contact between the children and the absent parent with minimum involvement from lawyers. Both parents are "child-focused" and the interests of the children really are treated as the priority. In these types of cases, formal residence and contact orders are discouraged by virtue of the "no order principle" implemented by the Children Act 1989. The principle works well – if there is no order, acrimony is defused and both parents are less likely to consider that one or other parent has the upper hand.

What the case has highlighted is that if you are a parent worried about a potential problem, you should concentrate at all times on damage limitation. And take advice before taking action. Be extremely careful about what you say to your partner. Be aware that badly thought-out applications or threats to go to court that are so easily uttered in the heat of the moment – but which are not necessarily meant or intended – can cause irreparable damage to the post-separation communications that will need to be maintained between parents. If necessary, hire specialist family lawyers who are prepared and experienced enough to be able to advise you to do what you may not want to do – but is in the best interests of the children.

Marcus Dearle is a partner in the family law department at the law firm Withers

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**Legal Notices**

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986  
**KRAAT INDUSTRIAL SERVICES LIMITED**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 18 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of Creditors of the above named Company will be held at Cook, Gully, Devon House, 33 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4PF on 18 December 1998 at 2.00pm for the purpose mentioned in Section 18 of the Act.

A list of the names and addresses of the Company's Creditors may be inspected free of charge between 10.00am and 5.00pm at Cook, Gully, Devon House, 33 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4PF on the two business days preceding the date of the Meeting.

Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must submit their individual creditor's statements in writing to the Liquidator, Mr Paul Mason, at Cook, Gully, Devon House, 33 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4PF no later than midnight on the business day preceding the date of the meeting.

Dated December 7 1998  
By Order of the Board  
PAUL MASON Director

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## Fast boat to the top of China's legal profession

Lawyers are coming from Peking to gain first hand experience in English law. By Alison Laferla

TO ANYONE familiar with the vastly different Chinese and English legal systems, the idea of a lawyer standing up in a Chinese court and citing precedents from an English text book is remarkable.

Yet not only has this happened, but the precedents have also been accepted by provincial courts in China.

The lawyers who took this novel approach to litigation had first-hand experience in English legal practice, as participants in the Practical Training Scheme (PTS) for Chinese lawyers.

Set up by the Law Society/Bar Council's Joint China Working Party, the PTS brings 15 Chinese lawyers to England every year. The scheme, which is funded by the Government through the Department for International Development, celebrates its 10th anniversary this year.

The anniversary coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but from the host London lawyers' perspective, although there is a basic introduction to human

rights under the scheme, the emphasis is essentially on commercial law.

Under the scheme, the Chinese lawyers attend a six-week course on English law at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies, spend three months on secondment to a law firm and three months working in a set of barristers' chambers.

Although the scheme's principal focus is commercial law, it also includes European and environmental law and an introduction to the English criminal justice system. Participants have also been quite willing to discuss the issue of human rights, according to the organisers.

"Lawyers who come over on this scheme return home to participate in all aspects of Chinese life and rapidly become influential," says the bar-

rist co-chairman of the working party, Adrian Hughes.

"They have established private partnerships, become leading lawyers in Shanghai, Peking and other cities, and helped draft legislation. One or two are heading towards senior government positions."

This is all the more significant given that the Chinese legal system is, to a large extent, still in its infancy.

In the Sixties and Seventies China had virtually no legal system or legal profession. Its subsequent transformation into an open-market economy meant it had a lot of catching up to do in a very short space of time. In the past 20 years, China has reinvented its legal system, introducing over 320 laws through the National People's Congress and its standing committees.

China's legal profession is

also developing rapidly. Up to five years ago, law firms in China were nearly all state-owned. Nowadays many new firms are private partnerships, similar to those in the UK, but much smaller. The number of lawyers in China has more than doubled in the last five years, but there is still a shortage of legal expertise.

Xiao-yan Cheng, a lawyer from the Gilin province in north-east China, on secondment to the City firm Stephenson Harwood, says one major difference is that solicitors here do not need to cultivate strong personal relationships with their clients to the same degree they do in China and so can spend more time on their professional work.

So far, almost 150 Chinese lawyers have come to England through the PTS. "All of us associated with the scheme also genuinely believe that, in some small way, we are contributing to UK-Sino relations and to the development of a strong, independent legal profession in China," says the solicitor co-chairman, Colin Passmore of Simmons & Simmons.



## NEW FILMS

### BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

Director: George Miller  
Starring: Magda Szubanski, James Cromwell, EG Daily  
The follow-up to 1995's *Babe* tosses the hapless "sheep-pig" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of wails. Knockabout comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak, atmospheric fairytale that verges on the sadistic. Adults should go 8 bundle on Miller's skewed, carnival ambience. What kids will make of it is anyone's guess.  
West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

### DANCING AT LUGHNASSA (PG)

Director: Pat O'Connor  
Starring: Meryl Streep, Michael Gambon, Kathy Burke  
Less a dance, more of a trudge, O'Connor's Ireland-set saga pinpoints the ebb and flow of an eccentric Catholic family in deepest Donegal. What gives it backbone is Meryl Streep's regal performance as the brood's eldest sister, plus the ever-watchable Michael Gambon as the homecoming brother. But it's not enough, and its static, stage-play origins are all too readily apparent.  
West End: Curzon Mayfair, Screen on the Hill

### IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (U)

Director: Frank Capra  
Starring: James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore  
Capra's festive bauble is a lot darker and more complex than it is generally given credit for being, with James Stewart's labouring everyman shown how dreary his hometown would have been had he never been born, before returning merrily to his Job-like existence. Its syrupy sentimentality contains a thick vein of bile, and at the day's end this is the making of the film, turning it into a bittersweet salute to the little man who makes a big difference.  
West End: Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema

### ON CONNAIT LA CHANSON (PG)

Director: Alain Resnais  
Starring: Pierre Arditi, Sabine Azema  
Love him or loathe him, *Last Year at Marienbad* auteur Resnais is a queer fish. Four years after the

Continental breakfast he made of Alan Ayckbourn's *Smoking/No Smoking* comes this rattling merry-go-round of romantic intrigue. "Inspired by the work of Dennis Potter", and featuring a lot of Potter-esque lip-synching to popular French show tunes. West End: Chelsea Cinema, Renoir

### RUSH HOUR (15)

Director: Brett Ratner  
Starring: Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker, Tom Wilkinson  
Rush Hour marries the Hong Kong action icon Jackie Chan with an LA backdrop, a jarring Hollywood director (Money Talks' Ratner) and a wise-cracking black comic in Chris Tucker's buckstering LAPD man. Its caffeinated plotline sends Easterner and Westerner on the trail of a Chinese crime syndicate and oscillates wildly between Tucker's verbal dexterity and Chan's adrenalinised physicality. It's a bit-and-miss affair.  
West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

### TWILIGHT (15)

Director: Robert Benton  
Starring: Paul Newman, Susan Sarandon, Gene Hackman  
Twilight reunites Newman with his *Nobody's Fool* collaborator Benton for a zimmer-furnished film noir which has the former's ageing gumshoe moving in with movie-star buddy Hackman and uncovering a skeleton in the family closet. While this is predictable stuff, muscular acting from a practised cast moves it along nicely.  
West End: Plaza

### YEAR OF THE HORSE (15)

Director: Jim Jarmusch  
Starring: Neil Young and Crazy Horse  
Jarmusch's documentary on Neil Young and Crazy Horse is respectful but never reverential, swinging between bracing live footage, robust interviews and discerning dips back into the archive. As a man, though, Young remains oddly oblique and unknowable, loitering in the background for most of the off-stage segments. He's content to let his music do the talking.  
West End: ABC Piccadilly, Renoir

Xan Brooks

## THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

### THE FIVE BEST FILMS

#### Out of Sight (15)

This tale of love on opposite sides of the law from director Steven Soderbergh manages to knock spots off every previous Elmore Leonard adaptation, and hosts in George Clooney and Jennifer Lopez the most romantic pairing of the cinematic year.

#### Antz (PG)

Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar cast stars Woody Allen as a worker ant who becomes an unlikely opponent of the colony's totalitarian regime. Allen's best work in a while.

#### My Name is Joe (15)

All that one would expect from a Ken Loach film - humour, indignation, emotional sympathy - driven by Peter Mullan's scary, intense performance as a recovering alcoholic.

#### Ronin (15)

John Frankenheimer's action thriller is buttressed by a fine international cast (Robert De Niro, Jean Reno, Stellan Skarsgard), moody French locations and a clutch of supercharged car chases.

#### The Fountainhead (PG: Curzon Soho)

Gary Cooper plays a visionary architect who refuses to buckle under mob pressure in King Vidor's astonishing adaptation of the Ayn Rand novel. Patricia Neal smoulders opposite him.



ANTHONY QUINN

### THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

#### The Invention of Love

Theatre Royal, Haymarket  
A witty, heartbreaking fantasia by Tom Stoppard on the twin passions of AE Housman: scholarship and an unavailable heterosexual friend.  
To 24 Apr

#### Love Upon the Throne

Comedy Theatre  
The Charles and Diana story (well, up to the divorce) presented by the National Theatre of Brent (all two of them). Very funny and oddly touching.  
To 31 Jan

#### Angela Carter Cinderella

Lyric Hammersmith  
A least inspired silliness and visual magic from Neil Bartlett and Improbable Theatre.  
To 9 Jan

#### Arabian Nights

Young Vic  
A ravishingly cosumed magic carpet ride in the Young Vic's incomparable tradition of Christmas shows.  
To 23 Jan

#### Kafka's Dick Piccadilly Theatre

Spiriting Kafka to suburban England, this hilarious romp by Alan Bennett (above) survives some peculiar casting in Peter Hall's revival.  
To 27 Feb



PAUL TAYLOR

### THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

#### Mirror Image National Gallery

A magpie's delight. Jonathan Miller curates a show of mirrors and shiny surfaces in painting, with virtuoso reflections from Van Eyck's *Arnolfini* portrait to *Vanitas* by Helen Chadwick (below). To 13 Dec

#### Louise Bourgeois Serpentine Gallery

Autobiographical installations from the surrealist sculptress feature a giant mother spider presiding over images of spinning and weaving, restoration and decay.  
To 10 Jan

#### Bridget Riley Abbott Hall, Kendal

A retrospective of work by Bridget Riley from her early Sixties Op Art, moving from rippling monochromes to colour, stripes and diagonals.  
To 31 Jan



TOM LUABOCK

#### Edward Burne-Jones Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

The people's Pre-Raphaelite centenary exhibition gathers together many favourites such as *King Cophelena* and *The Beggar Maid*.  
To 17 Jan

#### Chris Offili Whitworth Gallery, Manchester

Turner Prize winner Offili is as upheal original, his surfaces dense and decorative, with swirls of dots, eyes, Afros and black icons, and incorporating balls of elephant dung.  
To 24 Jan

## CINEMA

### WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET (0870 9020418) @ Baker Street  
Babe: Pig In The City 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm  
Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm

ABC PANTON STREET (0870 9020404) @ Piccadilly  
Circus The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.25pm  
A Perfect Murder 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm  
Victory 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm

ABC SHAFESBURY AVENUE (0870 9020402) @ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road  
Slums of Beverly Hills 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 8.55pm  
The Wisdom of Crocodiles 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0870 9020403) @ Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus  
Angel Sharks 1.30pm, 3.25pm, 5.20pm, 7.15pm, 9.10pm  
The Governess 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm  
Left Luggage 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870 9020414) @ Tottenham Court Road  
Antz 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm  
Babe: Pig In The City 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm  
The Negotiator 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-638 8891) @ Barbican  
Babe: Pig In The City 1.30pm, 6pm, 8.15pm  
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 4.00pm

CHelsea CINEMA (0171-351 3742) @ Chelsea  
Square/Connaught Lane  
1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3223) @ Clapham  
Antz 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.30pm  
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 4.30pm, 9.15pm  
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.30pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 1720) @ Green Park  
Dancing At Lughnassa 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

CURZON SOHO (0171-734 2255 (12pm-6pm)) @ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road  
The Elephant & Castle 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm  
The Fountainhead 2.45pm, 7.15pm  
Henry Fool 3.20pm, 9pm  
It's A Wonderful Life 12.45pm, 6.30pm  
The Philadelphia Story 12.30pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ELPHANT & CASTLE CORONET (0171-703 4968) @ Elephant & Castle  
Antz 3.45pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm, 8.30pm  
Out of Sight 8.35pm, 10.10pm, 12.10pm, 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0990-888990) @ Leicester Square/Baker Street  
Babe: Pig In The City 1.11pm, 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm  
Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9pm  
Out of Sight 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) @ Notting Hill Gate  
It's A Wonderful Life 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.05pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN (0870-9070718) @ Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith  
Antz 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm  
Babe: Pig In The City 1.30pm, 3.15pm, 7.15pm  
The Truman Show 6pm, 8.30pm  
Twilight 1pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

RENOIR (0171-837 8402) @ Russell Square/Connaught Lane  
Antz 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm  
The Knowledge Of Healing 4.05pm, 7.25pm, 9.30pm  
T-Rex Back To The Cretaceous (3-D) 11.40am, 1.55pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.25pm, 10.30pm

PLAZA (0990-888990) @ Piccadilly Circus/Antz  
Antz 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm  
Saving Private Ryan 3.15pm, 7.15pm  
The Truman Show 6pm, 8.30pm  
Twilight 1pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

ROBIN (0171-733 2229) @ Brixton  
Antz 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm  
Babe: Pig In The City 1.30pm, 3.15pm, 7.15pm  
The Truman Show 6pm, 8.30pm  
Twilight 1pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

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Babe: Pig In The City 1.30pm, 3.15pm, 7.15pm  
The Truman Show 6pm, 8.30pm  
Twilight 1pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

METRO (0171-734 1506) @ Piccadilly Circus/Baker Street  
Antz 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm  
Rush Hour 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm  
Slums of Beverly Hills 9.30pm  
The Truman Show 4.30pm, 9.25pm

CURZON MINEMA (0171-369 1723) @ Hyde Park Gate  
Antz 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm  
Rush Hour 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm  
Slums of Beverly Hills 9.30pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-995 2772) @ Baker Street  
Antz 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm  
Rush Hour 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm  
Slums of Beverly Hills 9.30pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-226 3520) @ Angel My  
Antz 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm  
Rush Hour 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm  
Slums of Beverly Hills 9.30pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL (0171-425 3366) @ Belzoe Park  
Antz 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm  
Rush Hour 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm  
Slums of Beverly Hills 9.30pm

UCI WHITELEYS (0990-888990) @ Queensway  
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Rush Hour 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm  
Slums of Beverly Hills 9.30pm

UCI WHITELEYS (0990-888990) @ Queensway  
Antz 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm  
Rush Hour 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm  
Slums of Beverly Hills 9.30pm

UCI WHITELEYS (0990-888990) @ Queensway  
Antz 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm  
Rush Hour 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm  
Slums of Beverly Hills 9.30pm

OUT OF SIGHT 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm  
Rush Hour 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm  
Slums of Beverly Hills 9.30pm  
The Truman Show 4.30pm, 9.25pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-995 2772) @ Baker Street  
Antz 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm  
Rush Hour 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm  
Slums of Beverly Hills 9.30pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-226 3520) @ Angel My  
Antz 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm  
Rush Hour 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm  
Slums of Beverly Hills 9.30pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL (0171-425 3366) @ Belzoe Park  
Antz 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm  
Rush Hour 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm  
Slums of Beverly Hills 9.30pm

UCI WHITELEYS (0990-888990) @ Queensway  
Antz 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm  
Rush Hour 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm  
Slums of Beverly Hills 9.30pm

UCI WHITELEYS (0990-888990) @ Queensway  
Antz 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm  
Rush Hour 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm  
Slums of Beverly Hills 9.30pm



**ILFORD**  
ODEON (08705-050007) @ Gants Hill Antz 2.30pm, 4.25pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm. 8.50pm Blade 3pm, 4.40pm, 8.25pm. Out of Sight 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm. Rush Hour 1.40pm, 4.40pm, 8.40pm.

**KILBURN**  
TRICITY THEATRE (0171-328 1000) @ Kilburn Theatre, At Lughnassa 6.30pm, 8.45pm. The Titled Thunderbolt 3pm.

**KINGSTON**  
ABC OPTIONS (0870-902 0409) @ Kingston Antz 6.00pm. Babe: Pig in the City 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm. Blade 3pm, 4.40pm, 8.25pm. Out of Sight 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm. Rush Hour 1.40pm, 4.40pm, 8.40pm.

**MUSWELL HILL**  
ODEON (08705-050007) @ Highgate Antz 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm. Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm. Out of Sight 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm. Rush Hour 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 8.40pm.

**PECKHAM**  
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) @ Peckham Rye Antz 4.45pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm. Blade 3pm, 4.40pm, 8.25pm, 9.25pm. Elizabeth 7pm. The Negotiator 3.25pm, 6.20pm, 9.15pm. Out of Sight 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 9.05pm. Rush Hour 1.10pm, 4.40pm, 8.40pm, 9.30pm.

**PURLEY**  
ABC (0870-9020407) @ Purley Antz 5.40pm. Babe: Pig in the City 5.55pm, 8.30pm. The Negotiator 8.50pm. Rush Hour 5.25pm, 8.10pm.

**PUTNEY**  
ABC (0870-9020401) @ Putney Bridge, BR: Putney Antz 5.30pm, 8.30pm. Babe: Pig in the City 2pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm. The Negotiator 2.15pm, 8.15pm. Out of Sight 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm.

**RICHMOND**  
ODEON (08705-050007) @ Richmond Antz: Babe: Pig in the City 1.40pm, 4.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm. Out of Sight 2.30pm, 8.15pm. Rush Hour 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm.

**ROCHFORD**  
ODEON (0870-9020419) @ Rochford Antz 5.45pm. Babe: Pig in the City 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm. Out of Sight 2.30pm, 8.15pm. Rush Hour 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm.

**ROCHFORD**  
ODEON (0870-9020419) @ Rochford Antz 5.45pm. Babe: Pig in the City 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm. Out of Sight 2.30pm, 8.15pm. Rush Hour 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm.

**ROCHFORD**  
ODEON (0870-9020419) @ Rochford Antz 5.45pm. Babe: Pig in the City 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm. Out of Sight 2.30pm, 8.15pm. Rush Hour 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm.

**ROCHFORD**  
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ODEON (0870-9020419) @ Rochford Antz 5.45pm. Babe: Pig in the City 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm. Out of Sight 2.30pm, 8.15pm. Rush Hour 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm.

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**ROCHFORD**  
ODEON (0870-9020419) @ Rochford Antz 5.45pm. Babe: Pig in the City 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm. Out of Sight 2.30pm, 8.15pm. Rush Hour 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm.

**ROCHFORD**  
ODEON (0870-9020419) @ Rochford Antz 5.45pm. Babe: Pig in the City 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm. Out of Sight 2.30pm, 8.15pm. Rush Hour 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm.

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**ROCHFORD**  
ODEON (0870-9020419) @ Rochford Antz 5.45pm. Babe: Pig in the City 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm. Out of Sight 2.30pm, 8.15pm. Rush Hour 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm.

**WELL HALL**  
CORONET (0181-850 3351) @ Eltham Antz 3.45pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm. Babe: Pig in the City 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm. Out of Sight 8.35pm.

**WILLESDEEN**  
SELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822) @ Willesden Green The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm.

**WIMBLEDON**  
ODEON (08705 050007) @ Wimbledon Antz 1.30pm, 3.15pm, 5pm, 7.45pm, 9.45pm, 11.45pm. Babe: Pig in the City 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm. Blade 3.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm. Rush Hour 1.40pm, 4.40pm, 8.40pm.

**WOOD GREEN**  
NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664) @ Turnpike Lane Antz 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm. Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm. Out of Sight 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm. Rush Hour 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 8.40pm.

**WOODFORD**  
ABC (0181-989 3463) @ South Woodford Antz 2.25pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm. Babe: Pig in the City 1.25pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm. Out of Sight 2.20pm, 8.10pm. Rush Hour 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 8.40pm.

**WOOLWICH**  
CORONET (0181-854 5043) @ Woolwich Arsenal Antz 6.30pm, 8.30pm. Babe: Pig in the City 6.30pm, 8.30pm. Rush Hour 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm.

**WOOLWICH**  
CORONET (0181-854 5043) @ Woolwich Arsenal Antz 6.30pm, 8.30pm. Babe: Pig in the City 6.30pm, 8.30pm. Rush Hour 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm.

**WOOLWICH**  
CORONET (0181-854 5043) @ Woolwich Arsenal Antz 6.30pm, 8.30pm. Babe: Pig in the City 6.30pm, 8.30pm. Rush Hour 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm.

**WOOLWICH**  
CORONET (0181-854 5043) @ Woolwich Arsenal Antz 6.30pm, 8.30pm. Babe: Pig in the City 6.30pm, 8.30pm. Rush Hour 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm.

**WOOLWICH**  
CORONET (0181-854 5043) @ Woolwich Arsenal Antz 6.30pm, 8.30pm. Babe: Pig in the City 6.30pm, 8.30pm. Rush Hour 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm.

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CORONET (0181-854 5043) @ Woolwich Arsenal Antz 6.30pm, 8.30pm. Babe: Pig in the City 6.30pm, 8.30pm. Rush Hour 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm.

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## THEATRE

## WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today; times and prices for the week; running times include intervals.

Seeds at all prices — Seats at some prices — Returns only. Matinees — (1) Sun, (3) Tue, (4) Wed, (5) Thur, (6) Fri, (7) Sat.

**ALARMS AND EXCURSIONS** Michael Fray's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Gielgud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) @ Picc. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (5) 7.30pm, 11.50pm, 12.50pm, 1.40pm, 4.40pm, 8.30pm, 8.50pm.

**AMADEUS** David Suchet stars as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama based on the life of Mozart. Old Vic The Cui, SE1 (0171-928 7616) @ 420 0000. BR/Waterloo, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4) 2.30pm, (7) 3pm, 7.50pm, 8.50pm, 1.50pm.

**ANNIE** Rags to riches story of the optimistic orphan, Victoria Palace Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/Waterloo, Tue-Sat 7.30pm, (4) 7.30pm, (11) 4pm, 7.50pm, 8.50pm, 1.50pm.

**ARTY** Larry Lamb, Jack Dee, Tim Healy in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736) @ Picc. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (4) 7.30pm, 11.50pm, 12.50pm, 1.40pm, 4.40pm, 8.30pm, 8.50pm.

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** Lavish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale. Dominion Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) @ Picc. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4) 2.30pm, (7) 3pm, 7.50pm, 8.50pm, 1.50pm.

**THE BEST OF TIMES** Revue-style show featuring the songs of Jerry Herman. Vaudeville Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) BR/Waterloo, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736) @ Picc. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (4) 7.30pm, 11.50pm, 12.50pm, 1.40pm, 4.40pm, 8.30pm, 8.50pm.

**BLOOD BROTHERS** Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical about two boys who are separated at birth. Phoenix Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736) @ Picc. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (4) 7.30pm, 11.50pm, 12.50pm, 1.40pm, 4.40pm, 8.30pm, 8.50pm.

**BLUEBIRD AND THE SHINING** New drama telling the bleak and violent stories of a cable's future, preceded by a new short, Royal Court Upstairs (at The Ambassadors) West Street, W1 (0171-565 5000) @ Picc. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4) 2.30pm, (7) 3pm, 7.50pm, 8.50pm, 1.50pm.

**BOOGIE NIGHTS** Shane Richie stars in a brand new 1970s musical. Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) @ Picc. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (4) 7.30pm, 11.50pm, 12.50pm, 1.40pm, 4.40pm, 8.30pm, 8.50pm.

**BRITANNICUS** Diana Rigg and Toby Stephens are directed by Jonathan Kent in Racine's tragedy of maternal manipulation. Albany St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1736) @ Picc. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (4) 7.30pm, 11.50pm, 12.50pm, 1.40pm, 4.40pm, 8.30pm, 8.50pm.

**BUDDY** Musical biog-show tracing the brief life of Buddy Holly. Sondheim Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) @ Picc. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (4) 7.30pm, 11.50pm, 12.50pm, 1.40pm, 4.40pm, 8.30pm, 8.50pm.

**CHICKADEE** Angela Carter's version of this fairytale is staged by the acclaimed Irish actress, Lorraine Pilkington. Theatr Maelgwn, W6 (0181-741 2311) @ Hamersmith, today 10.30am, ends 9pm, ES-E18, concs £6.50.

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**JESUS, MY BOY** Tom Conti stars in John Derr's alternative Christmas show. Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) @ Picc. Tue-Fri 8pm, Sat 5pm & 8pm, (1) 3pm & 5pm, ES-E18-E50.

**KAFKA'S DICK** Eric Sykes and Julia Mackenzie star in Alan Bennett's comedy about the moribund writer. Piccadilly Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) @ Picc. Tue-Fri 8pm, Sat 5pm & 8pm, (1) 3pm & 5pm, ES-E18-E50.

**LOVE UPON THE THRONE** Tasty look at the Charles and Diana marriage. Comedy Pantom Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) @ Picc. Tue-Fri 8pm, Sat 5pm & 8pm, (1) 3pm & 5pm, ES-E18-E50.

**LES MISERABLES** Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's masterpiece. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0809) @ Picc. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (5) 7.30pm, 11.50pm, 12.50pm, 1.40pm, 4.40pm, 8.30pm, 8.50pm.

**MIS SAISON** Musical which re-tells the *Madame Butterfly* tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) @ Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (4) 7.30pm, 11.50pm, 12.50pm, 1.40pm, 4.40pm, 8.30pm, 8.50pm.

**THE MOUSETRAP** Agatha Christie's classic. St Martin's West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) @ Picc. Mon-Sat 8.00pm, (3) 2.45pm, (7) 5.00pm, ES-E23, 135 mins.

**THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Haymarket, W1 (0171-494 5000) @ Picc. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (4) 7.30pm, 11.50pm, 12.50pm, 1.40pm, 4.40pm, 8.30pm, 8.50pm.

**RENT** Musical inspired by *La Bohème* and set in modern day New York. Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (07000 211 221) @ Holborn/Trinity, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4) 7.30pm, 11.50pm, 12.50pm, 1.40pm, 4.40pm, 8.30pm, 8.50pm.

**ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE** OLIVER! Peter Pan Stephen Oliver's music accompanies the tale of the Boy Who Would Not Grow Up, with Michael Bryant as the Storyteller. In rep tonight 7.15pm.

**LYTTELTON** The Prime Of Miss Jean Brodie Fiona Shaw stars as the Scottish schoolmistress in this new adaptation of JM Synge. In rep tonight 7.15pm. In rep tonight 7.30pm ends 12 Dec. 155 mins.

**COTTESLOE** Haroun And The Sea Of Stories Tim Supple's stage adaptation of Salman Rushdie's acclaimed novel. In rep today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 6pm. Oliver & Lytton, E12, Day starts from 10am. South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000) BR/Waterloo.

**ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY** THE BARBICAN: The Merchant Of Venice RSC production of Shakespeare's drama about love and money. In rep tonight 7.15pm. 180 mins.

**THE PTE SHADOWS** Riders To The Sea & The Shadow Of The Glen & Purgatory triple bill of drama by WB Yeats and JM Synge. In rep tonight 7.15pm. Barbican Theatre, EC2, The Pte: E11-E18, Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891) BR/Waterloo.

**SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER** Bill 1970s musical featuring legendary songs by the Bee Gees and starring Adam Garcia. London Palladium, W1 (0171-494 5020) @ Picc. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4) 7.30pm, 11.50pm, 12.50pm, 1.40pm, 4.40pm, 8.30pm, 8.50pm.

**THE SNOWMAN** Award-winning production of Raymond Briggs's contemporary classic. Sadler's Wells At The Peacock, Portico Street, WC2 (0171-863 8222) @ Holborn/Temple, tonight 7.30pm, ends 30 Jan. ES-E32.50.

**STARLIGHT EXPRESS** Andrew Lloyd Webber's hit-tech roller-musical. Apollo Victoria, W1 (0171-494 5020) @ Picc. Mon



# THURSDAY RADIO

## RADIO 1

6.30 Zoe Ball, 9.00 Simon Mayo, 12.00 Mark Goodier, 2.00 Mark Radcliffe, 4.00 Chris Moyles, 5.45 Newsbeat, 6.00 Dave Pearce, 8.00 Steve Lamacq - Evening Session, 10.00 Trade Update, 10.30 John Peel, 12.00 Andy Kershaw, 2.00 Cive Warren, 4.00 Scott Mills.

## RADIO 2

6.00 Sarah Kennedy, 7.30 Wogan, 9.30 Ken Bruce, 12.00 Jimmy Young, 2.00 Ed Stewart, 5.05 Johnnie Walker, 7.00 David Allan, 8.00 Paul Jones, 9.00 The A1 Road Show, 9.30 Love 40 - New Ballads, 10.00 Girls and Guitars, 10.30 Richard Allinson, 12.00 Lynn Parsons, 3.00 - 4.00 Mo Dutta.

## RADIO 3

9.02-9.24 FM (10.00-10.24 FM) 6.00 On Air, 9.00 Masterworks, 10.30 Artist of the Week, 12.00 Sound Stories, 1.00 Composer of the Week: Elliott Carter, 2.00 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert, 2.00 The BBC Orchestra, 4.00 Ensemble, 4.45 Music Machine, 5.00 In Tune, 6.00 Oliver Messiaen in His Century, See Pick of the Day, 7.05 Oliver Messiaen: the Man behind the Music, 7.30 Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, Live from the CBSO Centre, Conductor George Benjamin, Pierre-Laurent Aimard (piano), Xenakis, Jaloux, Boulez, Memorial, Benjamen, At First Light, 8.15 The Making of Messiaen, Messiaen's uniquely distinctive musical style is difficult to place in the development of Western music. With the help of those who knew the composer, Roger Nichols traces the diverse and exotic influences that helped to mould the music, 8.35 Concert, part 2, Messiaen: La rousselle effarvée (Catalogue d'Oiseau), 9.05 Messiaen's Mark, Messiaen has had a profound effect on musical thinking for the greater part of this century, Roger Nichols investigates how Messiaen's influence manifests itself, with contributions from his pupils and others who have

## PICK OF THE DAY

ONE OF the chilling features of recent conflicts - particularly in former Yugoslavia and Rwanda (right) - has been the part played by radio stations in stirring up hatred. In War Radio (8pm R4), Misha Glenn listens in to some of the more virulent propaganda stations, and asks what can be done to combat the problem. On a lighter note, Olivier Messiaen in His Century (6pm

R3) marks what would have been his 90th birthday with features and concerts relayed live from Birmingham. The pianist Peter Donohoe begins proceedings with an hour-long recital of works by Messiaen; Gillian Weir closes at 10.45pm with an organ recital, which includes movements from Les Corps Glorieux and La Nativité du Seigneur. Nice. ROBERT HANKS



been influenced by his music. 9.25 Concert, part 2. Two pieces dedicated to the memory of Messiaen, Muller-Siemens: Light Blue, Almost White (BBC commission; first performance). Goehr: In memoriam Olivier Messiaen (BBC commission). Messiaen: Oiseaux exotiques. 10.00 Messiaen in His Century. Michael Berkeley, George Benjamin, Peter Hill and Bayan Northcott discuss the importance of Messiaen and his music. 10.45 French Organ Music. A recital by Gillian Weir live from the Birmingham Oratory. Dupré: Le monde dans l'attente du Sauveur (Passion Symphony, Op 23). Messiaen: Le banquet céleste. Alain: Intermezzo. Tournemire: Variations on 'Victime paschale'. Messiaen: Les eaux de la grâce; Joie et clarté des corps glorieux; Combat de la mort et de la vie (Les corps glorieux); Les anges; Dieu parmi nous (La nativité du Seigneur). 12.00 Composer of the Week: Mozart. (R) 1.00 - 8.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4 (92.4-94.6MHz FM) 6.00 Today, 9.00 NEWS: In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg, 9.30 Shorelines, 9.45 Serial: Charles Dickens; Journalist, 10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour, 11.00 NEWS: Crossing Continents, 11.30 Split Ends, 12.00 NEWS: You and Yours, 12.57 Weather.

1.00 The World at One, 9.25 Hidden Treasures, 10.00 NEWS: The Archers, 2.05 Afternoon Play: The Teahouse Detective, 3.00 NEWS: Call You and Yours, 0171 580 4444, 3.30 Coffee - a Hellish Brew, 3.45 Snaps, 4.00 NEWS: Law in Action, 4.30 The Material World, 5.00 PM, 5.57 Weather, 6.00 Six O'Clock News, 6.30 The Worriers, 7.00 NEWS: The Archers, 7.15 Front Row, Francine Stock chairs the arts programme, and investigates why ice and snow have such a hold on the British imagination, 7.45 Still Waters. By Sergio Casci. Joanna and Douglas investigate the desecration of a local church. Meanwhile, Kate attempts to come to terms with Philip's abrupt departure. With Ann Scott-Jones, Emma Currie and Liam Brennan, Director David Jackson Young (24/25), 8.00 NEWS: War Radio. In Rwanda and Bosnia, radio broadcasts ethnic hatred and incitement to murder. In this documentary marking the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Misha Glenn looks at the way hate and peace radio are used in modern warfare. See Pick of the Day, 8.30 The Week in Westminster, Steve Richards of the New Statesman takes a look behind the scenes at Westminster.

9.00 NEWS: Ground Control, 9.30 In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg, Melvyn Bragg continues his look at ideas and events which have influenced our world, 10.00 The World Tonight, With Robin Lustig, 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Spiderweb, by Penelope Lively, read by Stephanie Cole (4/10), 11.00 The Cradleys, By Mike Haskins and Griff Rhys Jones. Comedy family the Cradleys continue their traumas in another exclusive from Copping Mount. With Simon Godley, Felicity Montagu, Perry Benson, Emma Amos and Geoffrey McGivern, 11.15 MacLean: the Memorex Years, 11.30 News Radio, 12.00 News, 12.30 Late Book: Human Voices, 12.45 Shipping Forecast, 1.00 As World Service, 5.30 World News, 5.35 Shipping Forecast, 5.40 Inshore Forecast, 5.45 Prayer for the Day, 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW (198kHz) 9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service, 12.00 - 12.04 News; Shipping Forecast, 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping, 11.30 Parliament, 12.30 - 7.30 Test Match, 7.00 News Extra.

## 7.30 Time of My Life

Sportmen and women relive the golden moments of their careers. Tonight, Marcus Armagat, the last amateur jockey to win the Grand National, talks about his 1990 Aintree triumph on Mr Frisk. Fellow riders Hywel Davies and Chris Grant, Mr Frisk's trainer Kim Bailey and Armagat's sister Gee share their memories with John Murray. 6.00 Inside Edge. Rob Bonnet and the team investigate the issues that affect the sporting world, 9.00 Hoops. Fat Freddy M presents a weekly round-up of all that is fresh and happening in British basketball, 9.30 Sportshop. Trish Rawlinson presents the sports consumer programme, including sporting investigations and news of all the latest sporting gadgets, 10.00 Late Night Live. With Nick Robinson, including 10.30 Sports Round-Up, 11.00 News 11.15 The Financial World Tonight. Plus news from the start of the first day's play in the Third Test between Australia and England in Adelaide, 1.00 Up All Night, 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM (100.0-101.9MHz FM) 6.00 Nick Bailey, 8.00 Henry Kelly, 12.00 Requests, 2.00 Concerto, 3.00 Jamie Cullum, 6.30 Newsnight, 7.00 Classics at Seven, 9.00 Concert, 11.00 Alan Mann, 2.00 Concert, 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO (198kHz LW) 1.00 Newsdesk, 1.30 Composer of the Month, 2.00 Newsday, 2.30 Focus on Faith, 3.00 World News, 3.05 World Business Report, 3.15 Sports Roundup, 3.30 Assignment, 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today.

TALK RADIO 6.00 Bill Overton and Clara Catford, 9.00 Scott Chisholm, 12.00 Lorraine Kelly, 2.00 Anna Raeburn, 4.00 Peter Dingley, 5.00 The Sports Zone, 6.00 James Whala, 1.00 - 6.00 Ian Collins.

## INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

### CHESS

JON SPEELMAN

THE LIVE-UP has been announced for the annual Hastings Tournament, over the New Year. The Premier (top section) consists of last year's winner Matthew Sadler, Miles, Emms, Plaskett and myself from England, Ivan Sokolov (Bosnia - though he now lives in Holland), Shipov (Russia), Saltaev (Uzbekistan), Fressinet (France) and Ponomarev (Ukraine).

Of these the most interesting is Russian Ponomarev, whom I first met two years ago in the Pamplona New Year Tournament from 1996-7. Just 13 then - he was born on 11 October 1983 - Ponomarev, who lives in a heavily industrialised (and hence polluted) part of the Ukraine, was extremely small for his age, and so slight that you might fear to throw him into such a bear pit.

For all that, he was clear leader with 3.5/5 before the heavy guns in the shape of Azmaiparashvili, Almasi and Gulko pounded him 3-0. I faced him as Black in the last round, and, initially apprehensive despite his unfortunate run, was in the end very thankful to scramble a perpetual check.

I remember that in an interview in the Pamplona bulletin, Ponomarev spoke of spending up to six (or was it even eight?) hours a day studying chess. He has certainly improved at dizzying speed: the youngest ever to qualify for the grandmaster title, at 14 years and 17 days, and still rising fast.

He did excellently in the recent Olympiad, scoring an unbeaten 7/9 to take the Silver Medal on board 6. And three weeks later, Ponomarev had an arguably even finer result, scoring 7.5/11 to take outright first place in the Ukraine Zonal tournament in Donetsk, ahead of 19 other

grandmasters including Alexander Onischuk, Oleg Romanishin, Vladimir Tukmakov, Konstantin Lerner and Igor Novikov. Only Vassily Ivanchuk, who is already seeded into the Fide world championships on rating, was missing.

Ponomarev's style is generally highly technical: for instance he ground down Novikov in 94 moves, the last 41 in a queen ending. But rather than burden you with such virtue, here is his sparkling win against Vladimir Tukmakov.

In a currently trendy line of the Caro Kann, Tukmakov seemed to be doing well after 16... Ng4 - if 16... exd5 17 Nf5 is most unpleasant - but the inspired 17 Bxg7! followed by 18 Qe2! detonated the black position. If 18... Nf6 19 dxe6 Qe3 20 Nf5+ Kh7 21 exf7 Rxf7 22 Rhel is murder 23... Qxg6 looks slightly panicky - he could try 23... Bf6.

After 24... Rxf5 the white rooks were much too strong.

White: Ruslan Ponomarev  
Black: Vladimir Tukmakov  
Donetsk Zonal 1998  
Caro Kann Defence

1 e4 c6	17 Bxg7! Kxg7
2 d4 d5	18 Qe2! f5
3 Nc3 dxe4	19 g3 Nf6
4 Nxe4 Bf5	20 Qxe6 Ng8
5 Ng3 Bg6	21 Nxf5+ Kh7
6 h4 h6	22 g4 Qb6
7 Nf3 Nf6	23 Rhe1 Qxe6
8 Ne5 Bh7	24 dxe6 Rxf7?
9 Bd3 Bxd3	25 gxf5 Bxf4
10 Qxd3 e6	26 Rd7+ Ne7
11 Bf4 Nbd7	27 Rh1 Bf6
12 0-0-0 Be7	28 Rxb7 Rg5
13 Kb1 0-0	29 Rxa7 Rg5
14 c4 c5	30 f4 Rxf5
15 d5 Nxe5	31 Rd1 Kg5
16 Bxe5 Ng4	32 a4 Rh5 1-0

### POKER

DAVID SPANIER

MOST PEOPLE are bored by bad beat stories. Me, I love 'em. Here is one that caught my fancy the other day. It was the last hand of the night - a crucial pot. The game was a frenetic version of Omaha high low, 8-or-better for the low. Players are dealt a band of six cards, of which they must use two, plus three from the flop. With this number of cards, going high and low, anything can happen.

So in his hand, Larry, with about £1,600 in front of him, found 2 3 4 6 6 10, a good hand but not great. Betty, doing her money as usual, was on about £600 and chasing Roberto, a gambling type, had £450. The betting was strong before the flop, as it usually is at this time of the night, building to £140 in the pot, with these three players in.

When the flop came down 10s-10e-4d Larry was pretty pleased. He has hit the nut full house tens on sixes. There is no immediate draw if his opponents are trying for low, and if an ace flops, he will be drawing to the nut low. When Betty bet £140, he called and raised £400. Roberto thought and thought, longing to call. But finally he folded. (Larry thought afterwards that he shouldn't have raised; Roberto

would certainly have called Betty's initial bet and, having got so far, would then have committed himself all in. It seems highly unlikely, though, that his calling would have persuaded Betty to fold on fourth street, so his raise probably made no difference.)

Announcing to the table at large: "This is the worst call of my life". Betty stuck in the extra £400 she had left. Next card off was the 8s and the river brought Js. When Larry spread his full house, she threw her hand in. "I thought a flush would win it," she lamented.

The dealer left the cards where they fell, as it was the final hand of the night and the game was over. Ordinarily he would have gathered them up to shuffle for the next deal. "Hey!" cried Betty, retrieving her cards, which had not touched the deck. "didn't I have a straight flush?" And she turned over the Qs 9s, to scoop a four-figure pot. Larry blenched but took it well.

'High Stakes', 21 Great Ormond Street, London WC1, has a large range of books on casino games, poker, horse-racing, greyhounds etc. 'High Stakes' magazine costs £2 10/11-430 0021, fax 430 1021

## SATELLITE AND CABLE

### PICK OF THE DAY

I DON'T know what it would cost to assemble the cast from Marvlin's Room (8pm Sky Premier) now, but in 1996 it was still feasible. In this comedy drama, receiving its satellite premiere tonight, Diane Keaton and Meryl Streep play a pair of sisters who fall out when their father has a stroke. Leonardo DiCaprio plays Streep's drop-out son, incarcerated for attempted arson, while loitering in the background is Robert De Niro.

When she first broke through in the 1980s with hits such as "Like a Virgin", many critics predicted that Madonna wouldn't last. Part of the reason she has endured as an icon beyond the age of 40 is that she has constantly been able to reinvent herself. Showing in VH-1's "Madonnarama" season, Madonna: The Blonde Ambition Tour (9pm) showcases the first ever appearance by the now celebrated conical bra. JAMES RAMPTON



(8439958), 11.00 Dallas (3779768), 11.55 Neighbours (2291518), 12.25 EastEnders (2552768), 1.00 Juliet Bravo (7619232), 2.00 Dallas (8882107), 2.55 The Bill (2317535), 3.25 The Bill (5284958), 3.45 EastEnders (238854), 4.30 Angels (8777552), 5.00 All Creatures Great and Small (2323768), 6.00 Due South (7701687), 7.00 The Comedy Alternative: May to December (2105687), 7.40 The Comedy Alternative: It Ain't Half Hot, Mum (8772779), 8.20 The Comedy Alternative: Dad's Army (7259452), 9.00 Family Ties (225126), 9.40 Film: Movies with Muscles Escape from New York (1981) (8367511), 11.35 The Bill (4752522), 12.05 The Bill (430237), 12.35 Spender (2552701), 1.35 Boon (5665350), 2.55 - 7.30 Shopping with Screenshop (84145527).

LIVING 6.00 Tiny Living (8827587), 9.00 The Roseanne Show (5857213), 9.50 The Jerry Springer Show (465316), 10.40 Michael Cole (3676794), 11.30 Brookside (1430128), 12.00 Special Babies (585107), 12.30 Rescue 911 (1071768), 1.00 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (872571), 1.30 Ready, Steady, Cook! (7902010), 2.05 Rolonda (4389478), 2.55 Living It Up! (8183500), 3.55 The Jerry Springer Show (815045), 4.45 Tempest (702267), 5.35 Carri Cook, Wont Cook (8302010), 6.40 The Jerry Springer Show (8305107), 7.00 Rescue 911 (7713294), 7.30 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (1382010), 8.00 Ally McBeal (837270), 9.00 Film: Family Rescue (1995) (9142107), 11.00 The Spicy Sex Files (1858720), 12.00 Close.

TNT 9.00 Miracle in the Wilderness (1991) (8557128), 11.00 Muthy on the Bounty (8384754), 11.30 Arthur's Island (1989), 11.55 Rescue 911, 3.15 Miracle in the Wilderness (1991) (8557128), 5.00 Close. PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL 7.00 Clueless (5871), 7.30 Desmond's (8039), 8.00 Roseanne (4519), 8.30 Just Shoot Me (7346), 9.00 Cybil (12823), 9.30 Seinfeld (8107), 10.00 Frasier (49687), 10.30 Cheers (52107), 11.00 Festival of Fun 1 (83058), 11.30 The Larry Sanders Show (14300), 12.00 Late Night with David Letterman (38904), 1.00 Taxi (41053), 1.30 The Critic (88701), 2.00 Dr. Katz (59633), 2.30 Soap (38140), 3.00 Hooperman (51817), 3.30 Nightstand (24942), 4.00 Close.

UK GOLD 7.00 Crossroads (3763313), 7.30 Neighbours (422497), 7.55 EastEnders (4102774), 8.30 The Bill (8345294), 9.00 The Bill (8432774), 9.30 The House of Eliott (8434768), 10.30 Angels (8439958), 11.00 Dallas (3779768), 11.55 Neighbours (2291518), 12.25 EastEnders (2552768), 1.00 Juliet Bravo (7619232), 2.00 Dallas (8882107), 2.55 The Bill (2317535), 3.25 The Bill (5284958), 3.45 EastEnders (238854), 4.30 Angels (8777552), 5.00 All Creatures Great and Small (2323768), 6.00 Due South (7701687), 7.00 The Comedy Alternative: May to December (2105687), 7.40 The Comedy Alternative: It Ain't Half Hot, Mum (8772779), 8.20 The Comedy Alternative: Dad's Army (7259452), 9.00 Family Ties (225126), 9.40 Film: Movies with Muscles Escape from New York (1981) (8367511), 11.35 The Bill (4752522), 12.05 The Bill (430237), 12.35 Spender (2552701), 1.35 Boon (5665350), 2.55 - 7.30 Shopping with Screenshop (84145527).

EUROSPORT 7.30 Sailing Magazine (57128), 8.00 Nordic Combined Skiing (58045), 8.00 Alpine Skiing (42720), 9.30 Alpine Skiing (21871), 11.00 Ski Jumping (88403), 11.30 Snowboarding (89132), 12.00 Motors Magazine (73132), 1.00 Snooker: German Masters in Bingen (895872), 4.00 Rugby Union (12805), 5.00 Alpine Skiing (8768), 6.00 Nordic Combined Skiing (79318), 7.00 Snooker: German Masters in Bingen (895872), 9.00 Boxing (38942), 10.00 Football: European Cups (11229), 11.00 Motors Magazine (54058), 12.00 Car on Ice (43430), 12.30 Close.

UK GOLD 7.00 Crossroads (3763313), 7.30 Neighbours (422497), 7.55 EastEnders (4102774), 8.30 The Bill (8345294), 9.00 The Bill (8432774), 9.30 The House of Eliott (8434768), 10.30 Angels (8439958), 11.00 Dallas (3779768), 11.55 Neighbours (2291518), 12.25 EastEnders (2552768), 1.00 Juliet Bravo (7619232), 2.00 Dallas (8882107), 2.55 The Bill (2317535), 3.25 The Bill (5284958), 3.45 EastEnders (238854), 4.30 Angels (8777552), 5.00 All Creatures Great and Small (2323768), 6.00 Due South (7701687), 7.00 The Comedy Alternative: May to December (2105687), 7.40 The Comedy Alternative: It Ain't Half Hot, Mum (8772779), 8.20 The Comedy Alternative: Dad's Army (7259452), 9.00 Family Ties (225126), 9.40 Film: Movies with Muscles Escape from New York (1981) (8367511), 11.35 The Bill (4752522), 12.05 The Bill (430237), 12.35 Spender (2552701), 1.35 Boon (5665350), 2.55 - 7.30 Shopping with Screenshop (84145527).

WESTCOUNTRY As Carlton excepts: 10.15 This Morning (588332), 12.15 Westcountry News (3761017), 12.27 Illuminations (8140580), 1.00 Emmerdale (83316), 6.00 Westcountry Live (78877), 10.30 Westcountry News (547923), 10.45 Personal Column (461408), 11.15 Richard Dignace - for One Night Only (82300), 12.45 Campus Cops (841988), 4.35 ITV at V8 (8835527), 2.35 cyber.cafe (780237), 3.00 CD UK (55528), 4.00 Trisha (813237), 4.55 Soundtrax (84135184), 4.55 Nightscreen (3390879).

YORKSHIRE As Carlton excepts: 10.15 This Morning (588332), 12.15 Meridian News and Weather (3761017), 1.00 Home and Away (5838761), 1.25 Christmas Home in the Country (590497), 2.40 Emmerdale (8635128), 5.40 News: Weather (242318), 6.15 Calendar (892580), 6.30 Tonight (389), 10.30 Calendar News and Weather (558571), 10.40 Master Class (46213), 11.00 New Visions (819126), 11.40 The Cosby Mysteries (207478), 11.45 ITV Nightscreen (4614499), 4.20 Jobfinder (229441).

TYNE TEES As Yorkshire excepts: 12.15 North

## REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1 N IRELAND As BBC1 London excepts: 12.00 The Price of Peace (30287), 6.30 Newsline 6.30 (749), 11.00 Hearts and Minds (1229), 11.30 Quidnunc (14008), 12.15 - 1.00 Film: A Woman Deceived (782325), 2.05 World Science (8236188), 3.20 BBC News 24 (1429188).

BBC1 SCOTLAND As BBC1 London excepts: 12.25 Dotman (704923), 12.40 Speachdian Am-Cadail (7348107), 12.45 Cran agus Rannan (7314778), 6.00 News (497), 6.30 Reporting Scotland (749).

BBC1 WALES As BBC1 London excepts: 6.00 Wales Today (749).

ANGLIA As Carlton excepts: 12.20 Anglia News and Weather (609671), 1.00 Split Second (53316), 1.30 Home and Away (19039), 2.20 Anglia News and Weather (547923), 5.30 Shortland Street (8043774), 6.00 Home and Away (296923), 6.25 Anglia News (204942), 6.55 What's On (820229), 10.00 ITN News: Weather (81504), 10.30 Anglia News and Weather (547923), 10.45 Cover Story (461403), 11.15 First Take (46318), 11.45 Anatomy of Disaster (46318).

(581942), 1.35 ITV at V8 (8835527), 2.35 cyber.cafe (780237), 3.00 CD UK (55528), 4.00 Trisha (813237), 4.55 ITV Nightscreen (3390879).

CENTRAL As Carlton excepts: 12.20 Central News and Weather (609671), 12.30 ITN News: Weather (16768), 1.00 Echo Point (53316), 5.30 Shortland Street (8043774), 6.00 Home and Away (296923), 6.25 Central News and Weather (547923), 6.55 Lifetime (820229), 10.30 Central News (556871), 10.40 Film: The Amityville Horror (5618720), 4.45 Jobfinder (2548546), 5.20 Asian Eye (2288779).

HTV WALES As Carlton excepts: 10.15 This Morning (588332), 12.15 Meridian News and Weather (3761017), 1.00 Shortland Street (53316), 1.30 Home and Away (5039), 2.40 Christmas Home in the Country (590497), 5.40 A Country Practice (8043774), 6.00 Home and Away (296923), 6.25 Wales Tonight (80045), 7.30 Wales This Week (229), 10.30 HTV News (547923), 10.45 Celtic Radicals (461403), 11.15 Now We Are Four (46318), 11.45 We Can Work It Out (46318).

(467887), 12.15 Jerry (844956), 1.35 ITV at V8 (8835527), 2.35 cyber.cafe (780237), 3.00 CD UK (55528), 4.00 Trisha (813237), 4.55 Soundtrax (84135184), 4.55 Nightscreen (3390879).

HTV WEST As HTV Wales excepts: 6.25 HTV West Weather (71791), 6.30 The West Tonight and Weather (895), 7.30 We Can Work It Out (229), 10.45 HTV 30 (461403), 11.15 Renegade (192377), 12.30 Jerry (8222679).

MERIDIAN As Carlton excepts: 10.15 This Morning (588332), 12.15 Meridian News and Weather (3761017), 1.00 Shortland Street (53316), 1.30 Home and Away (5039), 2.40 Christmas Home in the Country (590497), 5.40 Home and Away (296923), 6.25 Meridian News and Weather (547923), 6.55 Rural Rides (385), 10.30 Meridian News and Weather (547923), 10.45 Film: Judgement in Berlin (8930010), 1.35 ITV at V8 (8835527), 2.35 cyber.cafe (780237), 3.00 CD UK (55528), 4.00 Trisha (813237), 4.55 Soundtrax (84135184), 4.55 ITV Nightscreen (3390879), 5.00 FreeScreen (54904).

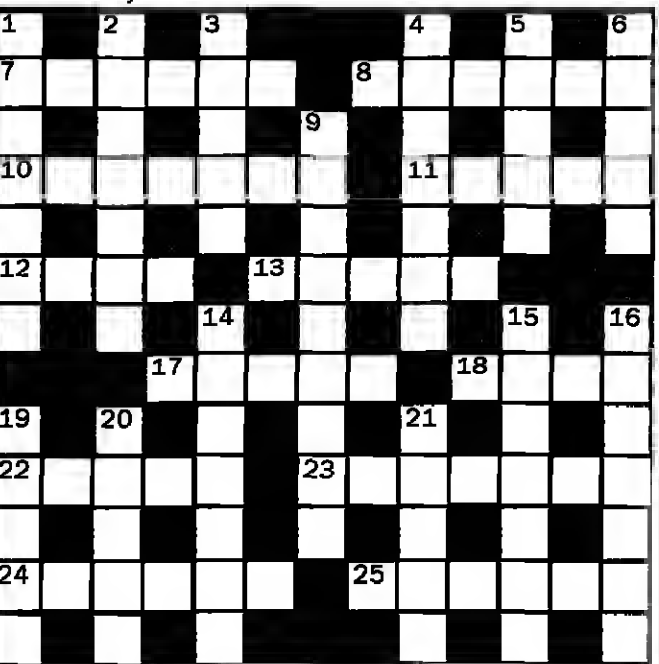
(467887), 12.15 Jerry (844956), 1.35 ITV at V8 (8835527), 2.35 cyber.cafe (780237), 3.00 CD UK (55528), 4.00 Trisha (813237), 4.55 Soundtrax (84135184), 4.55 Nightscreen (3390879).

HTV WEST As HTV Wales excepts: 6.25 HTV West Weather (71791), 6.30 The West Tonight and Weather (895), 7.30 We Can Work It Out (229), 10.45 HTV 30 (461403), 11.15 Renegade (192377), 12.30 Jerry (8222679).

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## CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3790 Thursday 10 December



### ACROSS



## Bank rate to stem job

## Channel 5

“*‘Tornados Galing Haywire’* was incredibly descriptive and was fun to read. I was really into it. When I started to get hate I knew this was it, ‘bragged about’ was the worst thing you could say about a person.”

Immediately imposed upon the film by the documentary form. Like his teenage subjects, the film wanted to analyse and expound unorthodoxly. It was also cultish, vain and meant to host gods. 'The film made some weird points through close-ups of emerging body parts which were almost ludicrously obvious. Was it a nipple or a pimple? An Adam's apple or a kneecap? There was also some nice banter between two kids, one leading the other off the swimming platform and into the sea. Sometimes I wake up in the morning and I'm washing myself and it just feels like I'm being let by somebody else.' ('X-Files' by Marko Oberst, *graciously sampling a life as an adjective*). 'Or being washed by somebody else - it just feels strange.' ('You are strange,' the alien mother says in a cruel one, but another says a cruel one, but

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## Channel 4

**10.30 Olive Anderson All Talk.** The loquacious brief's guests include the old pal from *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* Greg Proops, and Will Smith (S) (72636).

**10-15 Wrappers, Toothpaste wrappers (S) (T) (634861)**  
**Patricis .** Or how the Soviets stopped worrying and  
 developed their own H-Bomb. See *History Show of*  
*Day, Below (S) (T) (380774).*

**10.00 News Weather (T) (R1584).**

**10.00** **Film** **Canadien Bacin** (Michael Moore, 1999)  
A broad but not very sharp satirical swipe at American-Canadian relations, notable amongst other things

73

**FILM OF THE DA**

day filming, it might be the case of scoring the video before they go to work (it's too late for that, then Michael Moore's *Canadian Bacon* (1994) is a worthwhile curio). David Lean's *Great Expectations* is not as good as his *Oliver Twist*, but it is still full of exciting moments. This is Lean at his most generous, and the casting of a tentative Joan Milla as the grown-up Pip is the only fly in the ointment. Otherwise it's a top-notch Affleck-Gunness as Herbert Pocket, Finlay Currie as Magwitch, and Valerie Hobson as Estella. The photography and art direction both won Oscars.

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